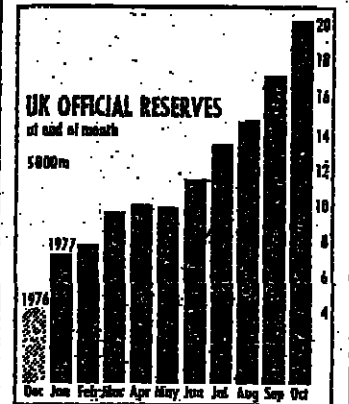


## Power men threaten even more cuts if today's talks fail

As increasingly severe power cuts disrupted industry and commerce yesterday, management and official union representatives in the power industry were reported to be near agreement on claims for improved fringe benefits. Hopes rested on today's meeting of the industry's national joint consultative committee, but one of the leaders of the unofficial work-to-rule and overtime ban said the power workers' action could be intensified if a settlement was not acceptable.

## Surgeon operates by torchlight

By Craig Seton  
Hopes for an early end to the increasingly severe power cuts affecting all parts of Britain rest today on a meeting of the electricity industry's national joint consultative committee. But, while management and unions were reported to be close to agreement, a leader of the workers who have taken unofficial action said it might increase if the settlement was not acceptable to them.  
The cuts have affected offices, industry, domestic consumers and hospitals. In Northampton a surgeon, Mr Maurice McLain, has had to stitch up a patient by torchlight when both the power and an emergency generator failed. The patient, a woman undergoing a serious spinal operation, was not operated on and will now have to wait two more months.  
Mr McLain yesterday appealed to the power workers to think over the dangers of their present industrial action, warning them that it might lead to the death of a patient in the operating theatre. In his own operation he had been only a few minutes from "a very dangerous position" that might have killed the patient.  
In Surbiton, Surrey, another surgeon, Mr Peter Davies, successfully completed a delicate operation by the light of battery lamps.  
In London the police maintained main road junctions where traffic lights failed, but queues grew longer as the rush-hour blackouts continued.  
The London Fire Brigade said it had been inundated with calls to rescue people trapped in tower-block lifts.  
The blackouts are the result of an eight-day dispute over wages and working conditions. The union has reduced output from its main power stations. Cuts of up to 15 per cent were reported last night, and the Electricity Council, which has said that it was certain to get worse without a settlement, added that there was little to be done to cushion important users from the effects.  
The council's industrial divisions will remain cautiously optimistic about today's meeting. Both sides acknowledge that for compromise. It seems, however, that the desire to breach the TUC's 12-month rule is not sacrosanct, and the 15-35-week claim for face workers is a negotiable target rather than a hard and fast demand.  
Some areas for bargaining suggest themselves immediately. The miners still remember that the Heath government proposed payment for time spent at the pit preparing for work but at present unpaid, the notorious "winding and winding time". This, it is calculated, is worth about 15 per cent a week, paid at the rate of at least an extra hour a day.  
On top of that a bank rate settlement in line with the 14 per cent for skilled Ford workers, and cash "recognition" that output at the face rather than the crude figure for all employees in the industry, is 5 per cent up on 1976 would bring the rate for face workers up to £110 a week. This is with the caveat that the level of the National Union of Mineworkers is "seeking to achieve" under its conference claim.  
Mr Scargill also had some soothing words about the



## UK reserves now third biggest in world

By Caroline Ardison  
Britain's official reserves soared by more than \$3,000m (about £1,640m) last month to top \$20,000m for the first time. They stood at \$4,129m at the end of last year.  
Britain now has the third largest reserves in the world after West Germany and Saudi Arabia.  
The inflow of foreign capital into London during October, as the Bank of England struggled to hold down the value of the pound by buying dollars for the reserves, was the trigger for the decision to allow sterling to float freely this week.  
Sterling has jumped by 5.63 cents on the foreign exchanges since the Bank of England stopped holding the rate down on Monday.  
The rate of the increase in reserves in October had been widely expected by the market and there was little reaction yesterday. Sterling actually closed 1 cent down on the day at \$1,835 against the dollar, but this was more a reflection of a recovery in the dollar's fortunes than a weakening of demand for sterling.  
The pound's effective rate index, measured against a basket of currencies, was unchanged at 64.4.  
Yesterday's reserves figures set two records. The \$3,040m rise was the largest in a single month, and the new total of \$20,211m is the biggest yet.  
Private capital flowing into the country was responsible for nearly all of the increase. It was the danger posed by foreigners' almost insatiable demand for pounds that led the Government to bring forward its mini-budget to last week and then to let the pound float.  
The danger is created when the Bank of England intervenes to hold down sterling and has to create pounds to sell to satisfy the foreign demand. As these pounds find their way into domestic bank accounts the money supply is increased.  
For the first eight months of this year the Government has managed to sell enough debt to offset the effect of the foreign inflows on the money supply.  
Continued on page 19, col 2

## Brezhnev offer to suspend peaceful nuclear explosions programme removes obstacle to total test ban

Moscow, Nov 2.—The Soviet Union today offered to suspend its peaceful nuclear explosion programme to ease the conclusion of a total test ban treaty, and proposed a world-wide agreement simultaneously halting nuclear weapon production.  
The suggestions came in the official text of a speech delivered in slightly abbreviated form by President Brezhnev to a Kremlin rally marking the sixtieth anniversary of the Bolshevik revolution.  
The 90-minute address also included an extensive critique of the policies and tactics espoused by the "Eurocommunist" parties of the West.  
During speeches by foreign guests later in the day, this theme emerged strongly with pro-Moscow communists like Dr Alvaro Cunhal of Portugal and Mr Todor Zhivkov of Bulgaria—winning enthusiastic applause for ringing pledges of loyalty to the Soviet Union.  
The non-conformist position was fervently defended by Signor Enrico Berlinguer of Italy, who declared that the Western parties' experience showed them democracy was "something of universal, historical value", and in less detail by M Paul Laurent of France.  
Western diplomats said Mr Brezhnev's offer to negotiate with other powers a moratorium on the use of nuclear explosions for peaceful purposes could remove one of the main obstacles to an overall treaty banning nuclear testing.

## Harvest upset

Contrary to Western calculations, the Soviet grain harvest will be only 194 million tonnes, Mr Brezhnev announced. This is 19 million tonnes less than planned. Report, page 8.

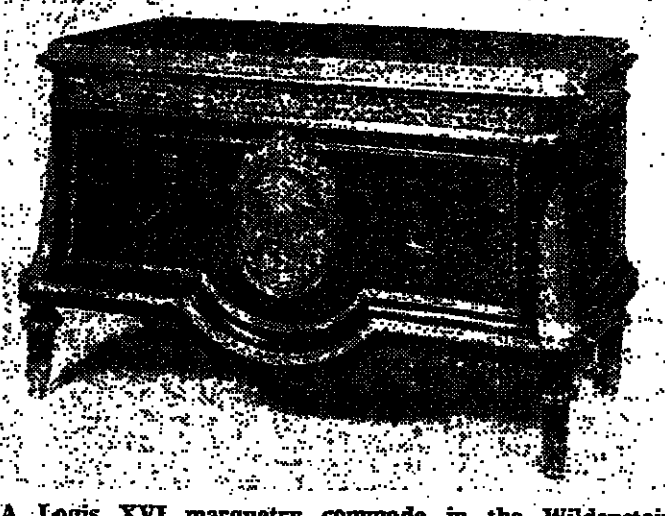
## The child victims of Japanese schooling

From Peter Hazellhurst  
Tokyo, Nov 2  
After scribbling a farewell note to her parents last month, Naomi Sakuma, a 10-year-old Japanese schoolgirl, jumped from the fourteenth floor of a Tokyo block of flats. She did not explain why she had taken her life but police found the answer in her bedroom: a pile of unfinished homework.  
Naomi was a victim of the pressure of Japan's highly competitive and draconian educational system which is expected to push child and teenage suicides to a record level of about 800 this year, according to the projections of a report by the national police.  
At the same time sociologists claim that many nine and ten year olds, who, in many cases, are forced to study 14 hours a day, are developing the symptoms of adult diseases, such as ulcers and hypertension.  
The police report discloses that more than 400 children and teenagers committed suicide during the past seven months and that the rate of these deaths is increasing.  
From the evidence, at least 120 of the suicides during the first half of the year can be traced back to the stress of preparing for entrance examinations.  
In most cases, the average student is forced to attend special private cramming schools (known as *juku*) before and after normal school hours.  
Continued on page 8, col 6

as well as widening the possibilities for nuclear prohibition.  
In the text of his speech released by Tass, which the news agency said later was the final official version, Mr Brezhnev was quoted as proposing what he described as "a radical step"—a coordinated halt to nuclear weapon production by all states.  
This agreement would include all nuclear weapons—"whether atomic, hydrogen or neutron bombs or missiles", he said, according to the official text.  
Mr Brezhnev implicitly warned President Carter against criticizing the communist countries on human rights. "Not everyone in the United States likes our way of doing things, but we could say a great deal about what is going on in the United States," he declared.  
"But if differences are accentuated, if attempts are made to lecture each other, the result will only be a build-up of mistrust and hostility, useless to our two countries and dangerous to the world as a whole."  
He added: "International relations are now at a sort of crossroads, which could lead either to a growth of trust and cooperation, or else to a growth of mutual fears, suspicion and arms stockpiles."  
The direction taken could lead "ultimately either to lasting peace or to balancing on the brink of war", he said.  
US welcome, photograph page 8

## Births to immigrants predominate in five London boroughs

By Sue Reid  
More than half the children born in five London boroughs during 1976 had immigrant parentage, according to new statistics published yesterday by the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys.  
The latest figures show that Brent, Haringey, Ealing, Westminster and Chelsea and Kensington each recorded a higher percentage of births to immigrant mothers than indigenous families during the year. In Greater London as a whole a third of the 83,233 children born had immigrant parentage, a marginal increase compared with 1975.  
In Bradford, Leeds, Leicester and Manchester the births to immigrant mothers increased, but in Coventry and Birmingham the level remained at the same level as 1975. In Wolverhampton the number declined.  
In 1976 there were only 584,000 live births in England and Wales, a fall of 19 per cent compared with four years earlier. During the same period births to mothers born outside the United Kingdom fell from 83,000 to 72,400, a fall of 13 per cent.  
But there was an increase in the births to mothers from the New Commonwealth and Pakistan, after a steady decline from 46,000 to 40,000 in the previous five years. In 1976 the figure rose sharply, according to the latest survey, to 42,000.  
The OPCS said yesterday: "Most of the rise in 1976 can be accounted for by the increase in the number of births to mothers from the Indian sub-continent, which totalled 21,600 in 1976, compared with 19,900 in 1975." There was also an increased birth rate among mothers born in Africa.  
The rise in birth rate among that group had been caused by the increasing number of New Commonwealth migrants to Britain of child-bearing age, often following heads of families who had arrived first to find work.  
The inflow of East African Asians to Britain in recent years had also accounted for the rising birth rate among mothers born in Africa.  
Overall, the rise in births from outside the United Kingdom amounted to a slowly increasing percentage of total live births in England and Wales between 1972 and 1976. Children born to New Commonwealth and Pakistani mothers accounted for nearly 6 per cent of total births in 1972, but that figure had risen to 7 per cent in 1976.  
However, the percentage of children with Republic of Ireland parentage declined from 2.6 per cent in 1972 to 1.9 per cent in 1976, a "significant fall", according to the OPCS.



A Louis XVI marquetry commode in the Wildenstein collection acquired by Mr Akram Ojeh.

## Saudi pays £8.8m for Wildenstein collection

By Geraldine Norman  
Sale Room Correspondent  
The Wildenstein family collection of French furniture and works of art, considered by the art world more distinguished than that of Menemore, has been acquired by a Saudi Arabian businessman, Mr Akram Ojeh, for 75m francs (£8.8m).  
Last week it was announced that he had bought The France, the transatlantic liner, for 80m francs.  
Mr Ojeh now plans to combine his two purchases, exhibiting the 202 superb Wildenstein items on board The France, according to the Lebanese weekly, *As Sayid*. The liner will be anchored off the coast of Florida and probably run as a hotel.  
According to Reuters and Agence France-Presse, Mr Ojeh was born in Syria and became a naturalized Saudi citizen in 1950. His fortune appears to be based on his company, Technique d'Avant Gard, Finance, hitherto noted for high-quality prefabricated building. The company has had several very large contracts in Saudi Arabia and is believed to have connections with the Royal Family.  
Mr Ojeh is a friend of Daniel Wildenstein's son, through whom, according to *As Sayid*, the deal was negotiated. It underlines what a small affair the art market remains in terms of international finance.  
Sotheby's had announced last month that it was to sell the collection, in a prestige two-day sale in Monte Carlo in December 10 and 11. It was described as the most important group of French furniture to come on the market since the Hamilton Palace sale in 1882. The collection included masterpieces in all corners of the globe had begun pondering their bank balances and purchase funds.  
In his interview with *As Sayid*, Mr Ojeh is reported as describing his acquisition as "202 royal art treasures dating mainly from the Louis XIII and Louis XIV period, which were looted from the royal palaces during the revolution." One hopes that he will not be disappointed to find that he has acquired some of the supreme examples of French furniture from the reign of Louis XV.  
His acquisitions will include a monumental marquetry corner cupboard surmounted by a clock, a riot of ornate cupids and lions from the Nathaniel de Rothschild collection at Schloss Schillershof. There is a footstool made for Marie Antoinette and a dressing table made for the Empress Josephine, as well as a magnificent Louis XVI commode made by Leleu for the Palais Bourbon.  
It is perhaps particularly fitting that these magnificent treasures should be the property of a very rich man who should pass them to museums but into the hands of a present-day multi-millionaire capable of treating them in the same spirit.

## Mr Scargill's formula for peace in the mines

By Paul Routledge  
Labour Editor  
Mr Arthur Scargill, the Yorkshire miners' fighting leader, has credited with the poll defeat of wage moderation in the pits, last night held out the prospect of a peaceful settlement of the National Union of Mineworkers' wage aspirations.  
In an interview he told me: "I think quite clearly that only a fool wants a confrontation. I am convinced that, provided we sit down with the coal board and negotiate, we can get a settlement on this claim that will be acceptable to all sides."  
The Government may be justly suspicious of his overtures, because Mr Scargill said there could be no settlement until the Chancellor's wage rise of 10 per cent was accepted. "We are in the same ball game", he stated.  
But he did not take up a rigid negotiating posture, arguing: "I am quite sure that round the negotiating table all sides can explore and an amicable and satisfactory solution can be found."  
Mr Scargill was unwilling to elaborate publicly on the scope

## Concorde arrives Queen home

The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh flew home in Concorde from the Caribbean to a noisy, rain-soaked Britain last night at twice the speed of sound. They were flown at 30 mph from Bridgetown, Barbados to Heathrow in three hours 42 minutes. This was 15 minutes less than expected.  
The Queen opened Parliament in Westminster today.  
Prince Philip had taken a rest on the flight deck when winds took off from Bridgetown, a palace spokesman said. "It was a lovely flight, the queen enjoyed the new experience of supersonic flying," he said. She spent about 10 minutes on the flight deck during the trip.  
The Queen braved the rain to thank the crew, sheltering in Concorde's wings.  
It was announced yesterday that the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh will pay a state visit to the West Indies next year, probably from May 22 to June 10.

## Lord Carver's car pelted with tomatoes

Lord Carver, the British Resident Commissioner in Rhodesia, arrived in Salisbury yesterday. He received a coolly polite welcome from officials but a hostile one from a group of Africans. Supporters of the Zimbabwe United People's Organization, which comprises tribal leaders who were not invited to meet him, pelted his car with rotten tomatoes. Lord Carver held his first round of talks.  
Page 8

## Dutch kidnap ends

The Dutch property millionaire, Mr Maurits Caransa, was released from five days' captivity in Amsterdam after his kidnappers had been paid a ransom of about £2m. He accepted payment in new, big-denomination banknotes, the serial numbers of which are known.  
Page 6

## Sir Alf's new post

Sir Alf Ramsey, the Birmingham City caretaker manager, has left the board to take up a new post of consultant to the club. He will be responsible for all team and club affairs.  
Page 10

## Thatcher warning of difficulties ahead

Mrs Thatcher has given a warning against thinking that Labour could safely be left to continue with conservative measures towards prosperity. Britain's feelings after better economic news were like those of the children of Israel when the Red Sea had been crossed—so relieved not to be drowned that they forgot the 40 years in the wilderness still to be faced.  
Page 2

## Sport 'class bar'

Publicly owned sports and leisure centres tend to be used mainly by the middle classes, a report states. Working-class people sometimes feel excluded, and intimidated by the attitudes of the staff.  
Page 6

## Shipworkers' payoffs

Shipbuilding workers leaving the industry will qualify for maximum severance payments of £3,500 under new legislation which is expected to be announced in the Queen's Speech.  
Page 19

## Evidence of a lost Pacific continent

Two geologists have found evidence suggesting that a continent may have existed in the middle of the Pacific 225 million years ago. They believe multiple rifts may have caused it to drift apart to join North and South America and Asia.  
Page 16

## France sends troops

France has flown troop reinforcements to its garrison in Senegal as a result of events in the Western Sahara, where Polisario guerrillas are holding French hostages. France continues to exert diplomatic pressure on Algeria, which is aiding the guerrillas, to use its influence to free the hostages.  
Page 6

## Washington: Public opinion poll shows a further slump in President Carter's popularity

Turner exhibition: An exhibition of Turner's engraved art is to be mounted at Somerset House, which the Tate Gallery said last week was unsuitable as an important Turner museum.  
Page 16

## Leader page, 15

Letters: On America and the ILO, from Lord Noel-Baker and Sir Robert Kilgob; on the revocation of sterling, from Mr W. M. Clarke.  
Leading articles: Aftermath of the Schlesinger affair; Selection of jurors; Mr Levesque in Paris.  
Features: pages 14 and 18.  
Roundup: But charts the significant rise of Mr Healey; Patrick Brogan on the first nine months of Jimmy Carter.  
Arts, page 17.  
Books: talks to Roger Barthod; Irving Wardle on *Writer's Cramp* (Bash Theatre); Ned Chaillet on *The Fall of the House of Usher* (Cottesloe Theatre).  
Books, pages 12 and 13.  
P. D. Jacob on *Victorian Murderesses*, by Mary S. Hartman; Paul Johnson on *The Fontana Dictionary of Modern Thought*; Jan Morris on *Venice: The Rise to Empire*, by John Julius Norwich; new fiction: Mr Robert Powell; Mr Roger Polancet.  
Sport, pages 10-12.  
Football: Three British clubs reach third round of European competitions; Manchester United out after winning 5-2; Tennis: Miss Wade wins.  
Business News, pages 19-24.  
Stock markets: Equities lost more ground on the worsening industrial scene and the FT 100 closed 5.1 off at 486.0.  
Financial Editors: Gifs and the reserves; another rights from Cons Gold; a shake-out in Eurobond.  
Business: Roger Violette discusses the possible impact on coal use of a large miners' pay settlement; Britain's balance of payments.  
Science: A new science and technology councillor for our Washington Embassy.









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## HOME NEWS

## Travel by rail can be expensive, unreliable and dirty, report says

By Michael Bailey  
Transport Correspondent

Travel by British Rail can be expensive, unreliable, and dirty, with inadequate catering, according to the November issue of *Which?*, published by the Consumers' Association. It concedes that Continental trains are in many respects worse, and efforts are being made to improve matters.

*Which?* inspectors travelling on trains found that people preferred cars because travel by car was often cheaper for one person, and much cheaper for two or a family. For a 100-mile journey first-class rail cost £6 to £10, second-class £4 to £7, and bargain fare £2 to £3, against £2 to £3 by car for petrol only. £2 to £3 including maintenance costs, and £7 to £13 including replacement. The reduced fare system was "far too complicated and confusing".

Rail fares would rise more slowly if more people used the railways or if BR were run more efficiently. "There is a lot of evidence that it could be," the magazine says, or with higher subsidies, though across-the-board "subsidies" are generally not in the long-term consumer interest.

The magazine says 17 of the 200 trains were more than 15 minutes late, some were 20 to 30 minutes late. Three fifths of them were on time, a fifth were more than five minutes late, and 8 per cent more than 15 minutes late.

For Inter-City trains the figures were worse: 38 per cent more than five and 18 per cent more than 15 minutes late. On Western Region 41 per cent were late. Those figures were markedly worse than those quoted by British Rail.

On Southern Region sub-

urban trains more than a quarter of the seats were very dirty, often full of dust and grease. On Inter-City comparatively few seats were dirty, but on Eastern Region many were "less than clean".

There were as many dirty windows as dirty seats: on Eastern and Southern one could often barely see through them. Floors were dirty on 38 per cent of second-class smoking compartments and 21 per cent in non-smoking ones.

There were no litter bins and ashtrays, and litter accumulated in buffet cars. A quarter of the lavatories examined were not clean, and a fifth of those in second class very dirty, many without soap, towel or hot water.

Fewer than a third of the Inter-City trains sampled had restaurant cars, and a third had no buffet or gangway service. On nearly a quarter there was a buffet but it was closed for all or part of the journey. Food was limited.

British Rail yesterday welcomed the report for its constructive criticism, but said it was based on a small sample and gave a "less than fair and balanced picture".

For example, British Rail traffic was rising, not falling, and most Continental railways received much bigger subsidies.

Reduced fares were bringing in substantial new business, and while that led to some complexity BR was trying to keep the fares structure simple and easy to understand.

Efforts were being made to improve cleanliness and catering; punctuality was not as bad as the report suggested, with four fifths of Inter-City and 55 per cent of other trains arriving within five minutes of scheduled time during September.



Mr John Darwin: Jollity disguises a career of seriousness and distinction.

## Looking for latter-day Guy Fawkes

By John Young

Today, as happens each year on the morning of the state opening of Parliament, a solemn little procession will make its way to the cellars of the Palace of Westminster to search for evidence of any latter-day Guy Fawkes. Its guide through the labyrinthine passages will be Mr John Darwin, who, for the past three years and a half has been the palace's resident engineer and the man who is mainly responsible for the day-to-day supervision of everything from Big Ben to the new broadcasting booths in the debating chambers.

Mr Darwin, aged 63, is almost a dead ringer for the Hon Gaius Threepwood, from monochrome to clapper moustache and with the same smiling, ebullient manner. He lives in a superlative flat overlooking Victoria Tower Gardens, for several years the cheapest of leading manufacturers' brands, and Hillard had become as competitive as Tesco.

For fresh fruit and vegetables the surveys found that J. Sainsbury's offered the cheapest prices. The report notes that Sainsbury had become one of the cheapest chains overall.

The report points out that big savings can be made by changing grocery chains. For example, it says, people living in Wales changing from VG to Tesco might save 18p in the pound.

Changing to own brands from leading manufacturers' brands would save, on average, about 12p in the pound, which could save the average household about 51s a year on its basic grocery bills.

But the jollity disguises a career of seriousness and distinction. As a student he worked his passage to America in one of the old Cunard liners, an experience that years later enabled him to assume command of the Westminster boilers during the strike of palace staff in 1975.

As an RAF squadron leader, in the Second World War he was responsible for airfield maintenance during the siege of Malta. Later he was appointed the RAF's chief electrical and mechanical engineer in the Far East, and supervised the construction of the important strategic airfield on the island of Cam in the Indian Ocean.

On returning to England he worked on designs varying from nuclear submarine bases to guided missile facilities, and from new types of dredger to a wind tunnel for testing the prototype Concorde. He retired as head of the Department of the Environment electrical group to take up his present post, in which he supervises nearly 200 staff.

It has been a far from uneventful period. After the strike in 1975 there occurred what he calls the "great disaster" when, in the early hours of August 4 last year, metal fatigue caused severe damage to the frame and mechanism of Big Ben.

The clock was working again the same day, although the striking mechanism had to be stopped for some weeks. In his enthusiasm to ensure that the overhaul was completed in time for the Queen's jubilee address to Parliament last May Mr Darwin suffered a coronary while climbing the stairs of the tower, from which he is now happily recovered.

Misfortune struck again on August 17 when a heavy rainstorm caused drainpipes to overflow; it was later discovered that they were blocked by birds' nests. Several portraits in the Royal Gallery were damaged, but have since been successfully restored.

He has two main ambitions. One is to replace the heating and ventilation system, which was condemned as obsolete in 1934 and which means that most rooms in the palace are freezing in winter and sweltering in summer. "I reckon it will take at least six years, and I am just hoping that Joel Barnett (Chief Secretary to the Treasury) will give me some money," he says.

The other is to clean the outside of the palace. "I think it is disgraceful that the 'Mother of Parliaments', which attracts hundreds of thousands of visitors every year, is almost the only public building in London which is absolutely filthy."

## Historical record of social change in this decade

By Pat Healy

A fascinating insight into changes in social policy over the past seven years is offered in the first revision of the *Dictionary of Social Services* since it was first published in 1971.

Terms that used to be familiar to the minority who understood the national insurance scheme, like "contribution year" and "benefit year" have been removed, reflecting the transition from flat-rate contributions and benefits to a fully earnings-related scheme.

The implementation of parts of the Children and Young Persons Act, 1969, which has transformed the way children in trouble are treated in England and Wales, has led to the deletion of "approved schools" and the concept of "care, protection and control". Instead, the new edition has terms on secure accommodation, young offenders, and intermediate treatment.

The recent identification of particular social difficulties has led to the inclusion of "watered wives", and "child abuse".

The dictionary was launched by the National Council for Social Services to enable people new to the world of social ser-

vices to understand the terms used by experienced practitioners.

The greater recognition given to the right of individuals to complain when services go wrong is reflected in the inclusion of new terms on the health service and local authority commissioners (or ombudsmen). In the housing and environmental field, the new version offers explanations of "inner city", the Land Compensation Act, loans for house purchase, and the wide range of housing grants and subsidies now available.

In the employment field, the devolution of the main government department into specific agencies, such as the Manpower Services Commission and the Employment Services Agency, is explained.

New benefits given to disabled people, including the mobility allowance and the contributory invalidity pension, are mentioned, and so is the Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act.

Mrs Joan Clegg, compiler of both editions of the dictionary, points out in an introduction: "With one and a half million registered unemployed there is no room for complacency. *Dictionary of Social Services*, by Joan Clegg (Bedford Square Press, £2.95).

## Colonel and two others accused of corruption

A lieutenant-colonel in the Royal Signals and two businessmen pleaded not guilty at the Central Criminal Court yesterday to corruption charges.

They are Lieutenant-Colonel David Arthur Charles Randal, aged 40, of the Garrison Officers' Mess, Aldershot; Geoffrey Elliott Wellburn, aged 40, company executive, of Woodside Road, Beaconsfield, Buckinghamshire; and Frank Percival Nurdin, aged 60, a consultant, of Barnes Road, Arkley, Hertfordshire.

The charges allege that Mr Wellburn and Mr Nurdin, on May 27, 1971, corruptly gave Colonel Randal £120 as an inducement or reward for showing favour or not showing disfavour to Royal British Communications Corporation Ltd. in relation to the affairs of the Crown. Colonel Randal is alleged on the same day to have corruptly accepted £120 as an inducement or reward.

All three deny similar charges in relation to £7,000 on February 25, 1972; £5,000 on June 29, 1972; and £2,300 on October 26, 1972.

## Motorway link opens

Mr Rodgers, Secretary of State for Transport, opened the final stretch of Stoke on Trent's motorway link road yesterday.

## Complete list of the Government as the Commons resumes

## THE CABINET

Prime Minister and First Lord of the Treasury: Mr James Callaghan (65)  
Lord President of the Council and Leader of the House of Commons: Lord Elwyn-Jones (68)  
Lord Chancellor: Lord Denning (60)  
Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs: Dr David Owen (39)  
Secretary of State for the Home Department: Mr Merlyn Rees (56)  
Secretary of State for Education and Science: Mrs Shirley Williams (47)  
Secretary of State for Energy: Mr Anthony Wedgwood Benn (52)  
Secretary of State for Industry: Mr Eric Varley (45)  
Secretary of State for the Environment: Mr Peter Shore (53)  
Secretary of State for Northern Ireland: Mr Roy Mason (53)  
Secretary of State for Scotland: Mr Bruce Millan (50)  
Secretary of State for Wales: Mr John Morris, QC (45)  
Secretary of State for Defence: Mr Frederick Mulley (59)  
Secretary of State for Employment: Mr Albert Booth (49)  
Secretary of State for Social Services: Mr David Ennals (55)  
Secretary of State for Trade: Mr Edmund Dell (56)  
Lord Privy Seal and Leader of the House of Lords: Lord Peart (63)  
Chief Secretary to the Treasury: Mr Joel Barnett (54)  
Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food: Mr John Silkin (54)  
Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection: Mr Roy Hattersley (44)  
Secretary of State for Transport: Mr William Rodgers (49)  
Minister for Social Security: Mr Stanley Orme (54)  
Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster: Mr Harold Lever (63)

## DEPARTMENTAL MINISTERS

Agriculture, Fisheries and Food: Mr John Silkin  
Minister of State: Mr Edward Bishop (57)  
Parliamentary Secretary: Mr Gavin Strang (34)

Civil Service Department: Mr James Callaghan  
Lord Privy Seal (responsible for day-to-day administration): Lord Peart  
Minister of State: Mr Charles Morris (50)

Defence: Mr Frederick Mulley  
Minister of State: Mr John Gilbert (50)  
Under-Secretary of State: Mr Patrick Duffy (57)

Secretary of State for the Royal Navy: Mr Robert Brown (56)  
Under-Secretary of State for the Army: Mr James Wellbeloved (51)  
Under-Secretary of State for the RAF: Mr Harold Lever

Duchy of Lancaster: Mr Harold Lever  
Chancellor: Mr Harold Lever

Education and Science: Mrs Shirley Williams  
Secretary of State: Lord Donaldson of Kingsbridge (70)  
Minister of State: Mr Gordon Oakes (46)  
Under-Secretary of State: Mrs Margaret Jackson (34)

Employment: Mr Albert Booth  
Secretary of State: Mr Harold Walker (50)  
Minister of State: Mr John Golding (46)  
Under-Secretaries of State: Mr John Grant (45)

Energy: Mr Anthony Wedgwood Benn  
Secretary of State: Dr J. Dickson Maben (52)  
Minister of State: Mr Alexander Eadie (57)  
Under-Secretaries of State: Mr John Cunningham (38)

Environment: Mr Peter Shore  
Secretary of State: Mr Reginald Freeson (51)  
Minister of State (Sport and Water Resources): Mr Denis Howell (54)  
Under-Secretaries of State: Mr Ernest Armstrong (62)  
Lady Birk: Mr Kenneth Marks (57)  
Mr Guy Barnett (49)

Foreign and Commonwealth Office: Dr David Owen  
Secretary of State: Mr Frank Todd (42)  
Minister of State: Lord Goring-Roberts (64)  
Mr Edward Rowlands (37)  
Mr John Tomlinson (38)  
Mr Ryan Luard (51)

Health and Social Security: Mr David Ennals  
Secretary of State for Social Services: Mr Stanley Orme  
Minister of State: Mr Roland Moyle (49)  
Under-Secretary of State (Disabled): Mr Alfred Morris (49)

Home Office: Mr Merlyn Rees  
Secretary of State: Lord Harris of Greenwich (47)  
Minister of State: Mr Brynmor John (43)  
Under-Secretary of State: Dr Shirley Summerskill (46)

House of Commons: Lord President of the Council and Leader: Lord Peart  
House of Lords: Lord Privy Seal and Leader: Lord Peart  
Industry: Mr Eric Varley  
Secretary of State: Mr Alan Williams (47)  
Minister of State: Mr Gerald Kaufman (47)  
Under-Secretaries of State: Mr Leslie Huchfield (43)  
Mr Robert Coyer (42)

Law Officers' Department: Mr Samuel Silkin, QC (59)  
Attorney General: Mr Ronald King (55)  
Lord Advocate: Mr Peter Archer, QC (50)  
Solicitor General: Lord McCluskey, QC (48)  
Scotland: Mr Arthur Davidson (48)

Lord Chancellor's Office: Lord Chancellor: Lord Elwyn-Jones  
Northern Ireland Office: Mr Roy Mason  
Secretary of State: Mr John Concannon (47)  
Minister of State: Lord Melchett (29)  
Under-Secretaries of State: Mr James Dunn (51)  
Mr Raymond Carter (42)

Overseas Development: Mrs Judith Hart (33)  
Minister of State: Mr John Tomlinson  
Parliamentary Secretary: Mr Roy Hattersley  
Secretary of State: Mr John Fraser (42)  
Minister of State: Mr Robert Maclean (41)  
Under-Secretary of State: Mr Michael Foot  
Lord President of the Council: Mr John Smith (39)  
Minister of State: Mr William Price (43)  
Parliamentary Secretary: Mr Bruce Millan  
Secretary of State: Mr Gregor Mackenzie (49)  
Minister of State: Lord Kirkhill (47)  
Under-Secretaries of State: Mr Hugh Brown (58)  
Mr Frank McElhone (49)

Trade: Mr Edmund Dell  
Secretary of State: Mr Clinton Davis (45)  
Under-Secretaries of State: Mr Michael Meacher (37)  
Transport: Mr William Rodgers  
Secretary of State: Mr John Horan (38)  
Under-Secretary of State: Mr James Callaghan  
First Lord: Lord Donaldson of Kingsbridge (70)  
Chancellor of the Exchequer: Mr Joel Barnett  
Chief Secretary: Mr Michael Cocks (48)  
Financial Secretary: Mr Robert Sheldon (54)  
Minister of State: Mr Denzil Davies (39)  
Lords Commissioners: Mr Donald Coleman (52)  
Mr Thomas Cox (47)  
Mr John Dornand (58)  
Mr Edward Graham (53)  
Mr David Stoddart (51)  
Mr Joseph Ashton (44)  
Mr Alfred Bates (33)  
Mr Peter Ewing (35)  
Mr Albert Stallard (55)  
Mrs Ann Taylor (30)  
Mr James Tinn (52)  
Mr Frank White (37)

Welsh Office: Mr John Morris, QC  
Secretary of State: Mr Alec Jones (53)  
Under-Secretaries of State: Mr Barry Jones (39)  
Her Majesty's Household: Treasurer (Deputy Chief Whip): Mr Walter Harrison (56)  
Comptroller: Mr Joseph Harper (63)  
Vice-Chamberlain of the Household: Mr James Hamilton (59)  
Captain of the Gentlemen at Arms (Chief Whip, House of Lords): Lady Llewellyn-Davies of Hastoe (62)  
Captain of the Women of the Guard (Deputy Chief Whip): Lord Strabolgi (63)  
Lords in Waiting: Lord Wells-Pestell (67)  
Lord Winterbottom (64)  
Lord Oram (64)  
Lord Wallace of Cosham (71)  
Lady Sledman (61)  
Baroness in Waiting: Mr Terence Walker (42)  
Second Church Estates Commissioner: Mr Terence Walker (42)  
Representative of the Church Commissioners

Banned corned beef on sale: Cans of Australian corned beef, condemned as unfit for human consumption three years ago, are again on sale. The Department of Health said yesterday.

The 606 cans, which carry the code EX 80 and may have one of several labels or none at all, have been found in London, Scotland and the Midlands.

Christmas parcels: Christmas parcels going by sea to the United States, Canada, South Africa and the West Indies and letters, packets and parcels for BFO 12 should be posted by November 10.

Tower-block scheme: The London borough of Haringey is launching an experimental scheme to turn two tower blocks of flats into specialist accommodation for the elderly.

IT TAKES TEN YEARS TO FINISH A REALLY GOOD PORT.

Croft Distinction. Tawny Port aged ten years in the wood.

## Britain before Man



A tale of clashing and separating continents, of tropical heat and ice-age cold, of volcanoes, deserts and vast swamps, of huge mud basins and coral seas, placid sedimentation and violent mountain building.

The Geological Museum, South Kensington, has just opened an eye-catching new kind of exhibition designed to tell a wide public the impressive story of Britain's overall evolution.

This week *New Scientist* carries a resume of the exhibition's aims by the Museum's curator, Fred Dunning, and a special four-page colour insert of the best views from this exhibition, including some ingenious 'satellite' pictures which show how the changing geography of Britain would have looked from space.



*newscientist* Out now 35p



## HOME NEWS

## Academy may close the door to undesirable visitors

By Peter Stratford

An attempt is to be made at the British Academy next week to prevent future visits by such figures as Mr Václav Král, head of the Czechoslovak-Soviet Institute in Prague.

Mr Král, a historian, is in London on an exchange arranged by the academy and is doing research at the Public Record Office. His visit has attracted criticism because of his role as a persecutor of other Czech historians, who have lost their jobs for following a sufficiently pro-Soviet line.

Mr Michael Evans, the overseas secretary of the British Academy, said yesterday that he had written a paper arguing that the wording of the exchange agreement under which Mr Král had come to London should be changed, so that in future the academy could refuse to accept visitors to whom it objected. The paper would be discussed at a meeting of the academy's council next Thursday.

At present, Mr Evans said, the academy was required to accept any visitor proposed by the Academy of Sciences in Prague, with which the agreement had been signed. One Czech visitor came to Britain each year, and one British visitor went to Czechoslovakia.

Mr Evans said he shared objections that have been made to Mr Král. He regarded him as a falsifier of history in the books he had written and said Mr Král had been responsible for the persecution of many Czech historians who had not followed a pro-Soviet line.

Mr Evans thought that the academy's council of 25 members headed by Sir Isaiah Berlin, the president, would share his views on the need to change the wording of the agreement. If the Czech Academy did not agree, it might be better to do without the agreement, which was made in 1972.

## Drive for adult literacy is given top priority

By Diana Geddes

Education Correspondent

The first act of the new Advisory Council for Adult and Continuing Education has been to set up a subcommittee to work out a policy for the future of Britain's estimated two million adult illiterates.

Mrs Williams, Secretary of State for Education and Science, and Mr Oakes, Minister of State, attended the first meeting in London of the 22 members of the advisory council, chaired by Professor Richard Hoggart, Warden of Goldsmiths' College, London.

They made clear that they looked to the council as an independent body, with wide terms of reference, to strengthen the lobby for adult education and give it an influential new voice at a time when economic stringency is leading several local authorities to cut provision for adult education.

Mrs Williams's first request to the council was for advice on the best way of building on the adult literacy campaign of the past three years in order to create and implement a coherent strategy for the basic education of adults, including continuing provision for adult literacy.

The Adult Literacy Resource Agency, which was established by the National Institute for

Adult Education in 1975 and has been responsible since then for the adult literacy campaign, is due to be wound up in April. The advisory council has asked Professor H. Jones, head of the department of adult education and chairman of the National Institute for Adult Education, to chair its subcommittee on adult literacy.

A second subcommittee has been set up under the chairmanship of Mrs Naomi McIntosh, pro-vice-chancellor for student affairs at the Open University, "to undertake preliminary consideration of the other main priority tasks in which the council might best address itself in 1978".

Mrs Williams suggested that among issues the council would doubtless want to consider would be the forging of stronger links between formal higher education and the more informal provision for adult education; concern for securing the proper opportunities for adults with basic educational needs; and the educational implications of changing technology, of developing industrial democracy, and of earlier retirement.

The council's administrative costs, all met by the Government, are expected to be between £45,000 and £55,000 in the first year.

## Clubs 'failing to meet old people's needs'

From Pat Healy

Social Services Correspondent, Harrogate

Large numbers of very old people are living in extreme loneliness with no family to turn to, Dr Mark Abrams, former head of surveys of the Social Science Research Council, told the triennial conference of Age Concern at Harrogate yesterday.

He said that unless changes were made now in public attitudes to old people the next generation of the elderly would live similarly isolated existences.

Dr Abrams said elderly people did not go to clubs designed for them because the clubs did not meet their needs. Friendly neighbours were much more important than organized activities.

He based his forecast on a sample of 1,600 people aged 75 and over, which is to be published by Age Concern. It showed that more than a third of the age group have no children to turn to for support, either because they have never had any or because they have outlived them.

More than half felt extremely lonely, with nearly a fifth stating that they had never dreamt that they could feel so lonely. Only one in 10 belonged to clubs for the elderly, and 15 per cent wanted help with taking a bath, a service that was not offered.

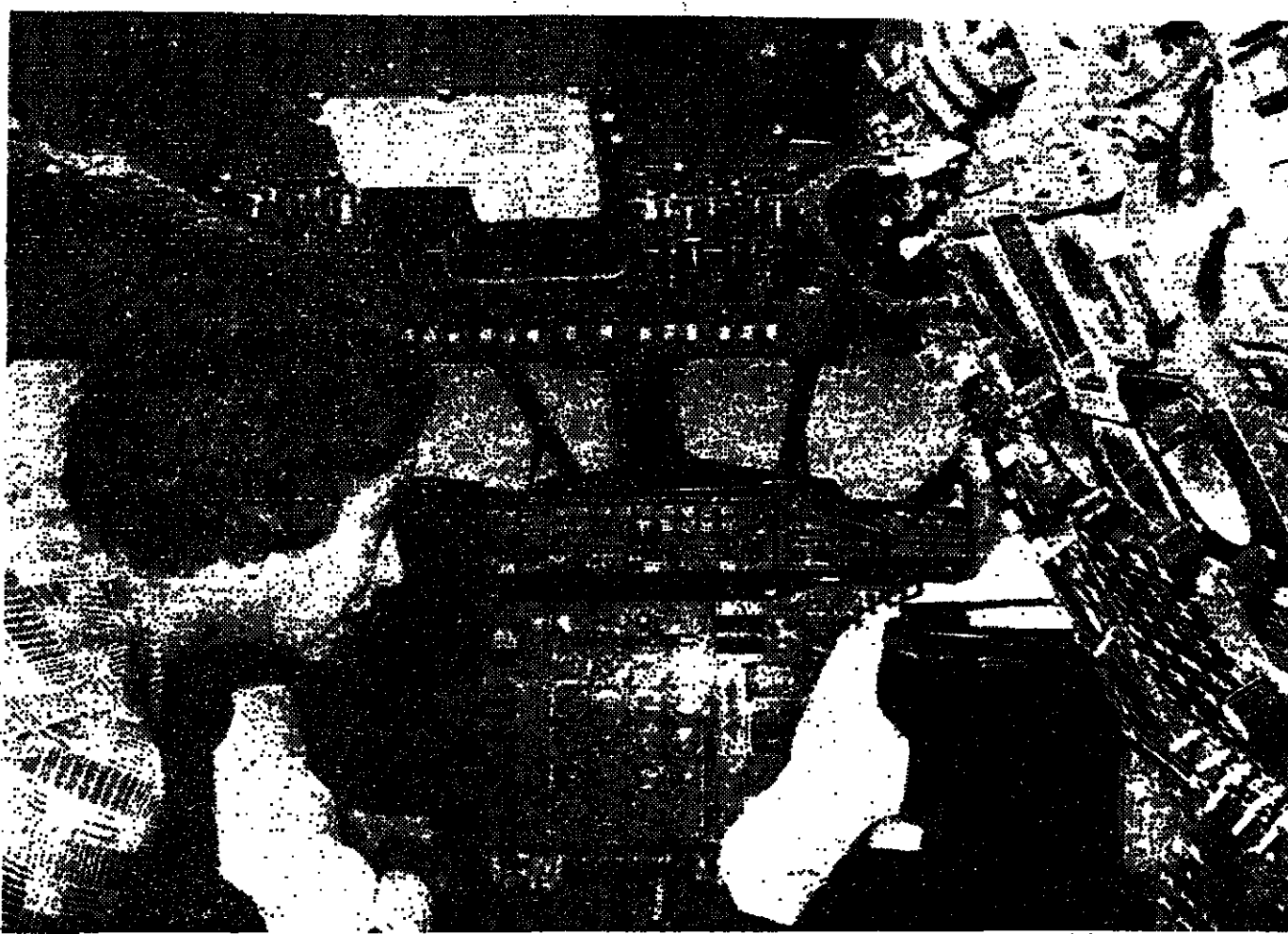
A sample of people aged between 65 and 74 produced similar results, showing that the next generation of very old people are also likely to lead isolated and lonely lives.

"We need to produce the real facts and substitute them for conventional wisdom about the elderly", Dr Abrams said. "The prospect in the 1980s and 1990s of a large group of elderly people with no offspring to turn to for support is very large unless something is done now."

His survey showed that in both age groups contact with immediate families made no difference to the likelihood of them seeking companionship in clubs. In the younger age group twice as many women living alone as those living with their children went to clubs. But the number of women who joined clubs was less than a fifth of those living alone.

## Admiralty research

The Admiralty Marine Technology Establishment has been chosen as the name for a new Ministry of Defence research establishment



The Queen taking a close look at the crowded banks of instruments when she visited the flight deck of Concorde on her way home from Barbados yesterday.

## At the parish pump: An incident on the beach at Barafundle Bay Court told of the naked man from the sea

By Michael Horsnell

Births, deaths and some undignified sexual antics hold their usual prominent positions in the columns of local newspapers throughout Britain this week.

And judging from the advertising revenue that must be pouring into the coffers of many weeklies, nothing will ever replace that trusted formula of "hatches, matches and dispatches" in the affections of local publishers for whom the grey columns of the serious national newspapers must seem as unprofitable.

In its series of eavesdropping at the parish pump, *The Times* has discovered the most touching story of the week in the *Bedfordshire Times*, which was published on the day that young Kerri-Anne Dougan celebrated her first birthday with her parents in the small village of Clepham. What made the occasion extra special was the fact that Kerri-Anne underwent an awful struggle for survival 12

months before, when she was born weighing 11b 12oz at Bedford Hospital. Her parents were told not to hold out too much hope for her. Today she is a happy bouncing baby.

At the other end of the life cycle the *Brecon and Radnor Express* sadly reports the passing of several local worthies.

The funeral gloom is lifted with reports of the Baptist Missionary Society Women's Auxiliary meeting in Brecon and a dance at Bishop Meadow, Brecon, organized by the local committee for cancer relief.

But in between those light-hearted affairs is the sombre reminder of dust and ashes so often to be found in Welsh newspapers: "Doug Prosser, the only undertaker in Brecon with his own hearse".

If "hatches and dispatches" did particularly well in the past week so too did the other.

The *Western Telegraph* and *Cymric Times*, published at Haverfordwest, reported the case of a man who emerged naked from the sea and

attacked a woman, starting to tear off her clothes as she walked along the beach at Barafundle Bay, Dyfed. Fortunately she was able to defend herself with a knife she had picked up on the cliffs, a court was told. Meanwhile a friend of the victim managed to place a dog whip round the man's neck. The man later told the judge: "I think it was temporary insanity".

Sex also rears its ugly head in east London, where the *Stratford Express* reports that "gym-slip lovers" are helping to send attendance figures "rocking" at Newham's only VD clinic. Never a paper to let go of a good story when it gets one, the *Express* has another front-page report on the allegations of doctors and nurses at the very same clinic that they are working there in "Dickensian conditions".

Where births, marriages and deaths allow the space, local newspapers continue to take an interest in waste and in vandalism.

The *Western Telegraph* (again) reports that Dyfed Area Health Authority has been forced to write off "time-expired catgut" valued at £103 at Ceredigion Hospital, together with a patient's cardigan shrunk in the laundry (£41, another patient's trousers (£3.99), a flag worth £14 stolen from Aberystwyth Road ambulance station, and a catering manager's trousers (£7.99) accidentally damaged.

I have always refrained from writing about vandals since a former editor told me not to unless the persons in question were wearing leather skirts, helmets and short swords.

A similar restriction has clearly not been placed on staff at the *Wells Journal* in Somerset. There, vandals have apparently already started attacking East Harptree's silver jubilee seat, sited in the ground of the social centre. Villagers have told the parish council that attempts have been made to knock out the seat wedges with rocks.

## Civil Service moderates win round 1 on elections

By Donald Macintyre  
Labour Reporter

Members of the Civil and Public Services' Association, Britain's biggest Civil Service union, have voted 76,640 to 22,606 in favour of individual rather than branch balloting in elections of officials.

But that referendum result has yet to be debated at a rules revision conference at Southport later this month, when a two-thirds majority will be required to abandon the branch system.

Moderates favour the individual ballot on the ground that branch elections tend to exclude non-activists who cannot be bothered to attend meetings. Leading right wingers said yesterday that the result was a magnificent vindication of their view that the members as a whole wanted the change.

But since fewer than half the union's 234,000 members took part and a large minority of branches did not issue ballot papers the outcome of the conference is uncertain.

Mr Leonard Lever, the association's president, said: "The number of people who took part in the poll was higher than expected, and so was the size of the majority. But many of the people who took part voted without discussion of the sort there will be at the conference."

The internal dissension between the left and right over the issue surfaced briefly at yesterday's press conference to announce the results when the two sides argued over the virtue of a change and the reasons why so many branches had failed to produce referendum returns.

Both sides acknowledged that some branches had felt daunted by the prospect because of the wide geographical distribution of members.

Mr Charles Elliott, a leading right-winger, the original proposer of the policy change and a member of the association's general purposes committee, said political reasons had been behind many branches' failure to carry out the referendum.

Mr Reginald Williams, the union's left-wing senior vice-president, said an investigation of the branches that did not respond would show that both right-wing and left-wing-dominated branches had not taken part.

Early December will mark the birth of supersonic travel to the Far East, with the introduction of Singapore Airlines' regular Concorde services between London and Singapore.

SIA's new Concorde service means yet another first for the airline and positions SIA as only the third carrier in the world to operate supersonic aircraft.

SIA's Concorde will complete the journey in just over nine hours including a stop at Bahrain. Flights depart London Heathrow at 1.00pm, every Sunday, Wednesday and Friday, arriving in Singapore at 6.00am the following morning, in time for convenient connections to major cities throughout South East Asia.

Return flights leave Singapore every Monday, Thursday and Saturday at 11.30am, arriving London at 1.15pm the same day. SINGAPORE AIRLINES



\*Operated in association with British Airways.

# SINGAPORE AIRLINES GOES SUPERSONIC!



## HOME NEWS

## Working-class people 'reluctant to use publicly owned sports and leisure facilities'

By John Young, Planning Reporter

Large publicly owned and financed sports centres and "leisure complexes" are benefiting mainly the better off, not the whole community as was intended, a report by the Department of the Environment states.

Its findings are similar to those of a report published last month by Political and Economic Planning, which advocated a network of smaller and more accessible facilities.

The department's report, published yesterday, claims that local authorities rarely carry out any monitoring as to who uses their sports facilities, their socio-economic status or incomes. There thus appear to be no policies to increase participation by those who do not use them.

It quotes an unofficial study of one centre in inner London, which found that most people using it were in the white-collar professions, and that four fifths of them came by car. The dominant activities were squash, badminton and tennis, which were traditionally higher-income sports.

The existence of an appar-

ently unsatisfied demand among the middle classes and their "still" in using available facilities have resulted not only in resentment by local people but a reluctance by them to use such facilities at all, the report states. They have a sense of exclusion and a feeling that "people like us don't go."

It cites the case of a sports centre near a working-class estate where "the local people never got a look in, the clubs began booking straightaway and the report got around that it was exclusively for posh people and so it was not for them."

The locals, mostly immigrants, were intimidated by the building and by the attitudes of the staff. They also complained about visitors parking their cars in the adjoining streets.

The report, however, implies that working-class attitudes and habits may be at least partly to blame. It quotes another survey, which found that on a council estate in Hammersmith, London, the physical and human resources in the community are fully and effectively utilized.

Recreation and Deprivation in Inner Urban Areas (Stationery Office, £1.50).

viewed the public library, as they did other public offices, with a mixture of misgiving, doubt and suspicion.

It notes that outside the public sector "and scarcely noticed by the professional administrators" are various sporting and recreational activities organized by and for working-class communities. The most widespread are working men's clubs, which are run by their own members.

The report suggests that local authorities should cease to be "paternalistic providers of facilities" and increase support for existing leisure institutions, encouraging them in new enterprises.

In a foreword, Mr Howell, Minister for Sport and Recreation, emphasizes that the report is a research document and not a statement of government policy. But he adds that he is "convinced that at a time of severe economic restraint we should reappraise our whole attitude to leisure provision to ensure that the physical and human resources in the community are fully and effectively utilized."

## Further council changes opposed

By Christopher Warman, Local Government Correspondent

Any change in the existing functions of the two tiers of local government would inevitably result in considerable cost for the taxpayers, the Association of County Councils has told yesterday.

Mr Gervais Walker, chairman of the association's policy committee, told members that the Government might be planning a "reorganization by stealth" of some of the functions of the county and district authorities.

At the same time the Association of District Councils released a memorandum to the Government proposing changes in the allocation of functions between the two tiers because it was "particularly concerned about the expense, waste, uncertainty and delay stemming from the present overlaps and duplication of powers."

Speaking on the eve of the Queen's Speech, Mr Walker said that if the Government were to look at the division of functions "we could find ourselves faced gradually with profound changes without major legislation."

If no action was made in the Queen's Speech, members should not be lulled into thinking that the matter had been dropped. He believed that Mr

Shore, Secretary of State for the Environment, was determined to bring about an "organic change" in the two-tier system.

Mr Walker said the Labour Party's document on English devolution published in August might be the forerunner of future policies. It had been suggested that the nine biggest non-metropolitan cities might be given back some of the functions they had as county boroughs before reorganization in 1973.

"It is not just the nine. There are many other old county boroughs which would welcome their powers back again, and that would be a move towards a complete reorganization, which the association is firmly against."

There was ample evidence that the services considered for transfer, including education and the very ones that were now working smoothly and giving a better service to the community, "that is what local government is about, service to the community, not how the members of an authority can wield more power."

Mr Walker asked the Government to make a categorical statement that it would not tamper with local government, to re-

assure both council staff and the public.

"There is not one shred of evidence that services would be as well improved. It would be a reorganization that nobody wants."

In its observations on the government consultation document, *Devolution: the English question*, the Association of District Councils emphasized the need to bring local government closer to the people it served. "Bigger is no longer better, and the old argument of economies of scale can be a snare and delusion where finance and priorities are outside the control of elected district members who are closest to the public."

Decision-making should be at district level wherever practicable. "The public turns instinctively to the district councillor and local town hall with any problems about the public services."

The association has made proposals to give district authorities some "essentially local services, notably personal social services, non-strategic planning and highways/traffic management where they have the capacity and resources to take them on. This is not suggesting another reorganization, but a realistic shift of some functions within the existing structure."

## Listeners face difficulties over BBC changes

By a Staff Reporter

The radio wavelength changes announced by the BBC, which will come into effect in a year's time, may present difficulties to listeners whose radio sets do not receive on all three wavebands: long wave, medium wave and VHF.

The changes will mean that listeners who have turned to medium wave for both Radio Four and Radio Three will find their sets unable to receive on all three wavebands: long wave, medium wave and VHF.

At present, the BBC estimates almost half of the sets in use in the United Kingdom provide VHF coverage, and about seven eighths provide long wave reception.

Many people will thus be forced to buy new sets if they want comprehensive coverage, and although this is a vast task, it is not insurmountable, many do not provide all three wavebands.

The BBC has already been discussing the wavelength changes with British radio manufacturers, but most radio sets sold in the United Kingdom are now imported and so British listeners are now rather dependent on what foreign makers will supply.

Many foreign sets will provide medium wave and VHF but do not include the long wave band, which is the source of a large proportion of the sets sold in Britain, there is now increasing interest in the use of long waves.

## Britain's wealth of spoon-benders give scientists a topic for discussion

By Alan Hamilton

Britain and Japan have a higher proportion of spoon-benders than any other countries in the world, according to an American researcher into the paranormal.

The two countries have, for no good reason, more than their fair share of the estimated 10,000 gifted people in the world who can distort cutlery simply by thinking about it, although this is a strong challenge from Brazil.

Those and other recent discoveries into the phenomenon launched by Mr Uri Geller on a celebrated BBC television programme four years ago are to be discussed by a panel of scientists at a conference at the Commonwealth Institute in London tomorrow evening.

Dr Andrija Puharich, a Yugoslav-born scientist now working in the United States, has carried out extensive tests on Mr Geller and has since examined more than seventy other people with similar powers.

He said yesterday: "All I and my colleagues can say is that spoon-bending is not a sham, it is a genuine phenomenon, but we cannot explain it."

The conference is being organized by the Orb Foundation, an American educational charity, which has recently opened a branch in London. During an hour-long interview at the foundation's West End offices, all my pens ran dry, but Dr Puharich disclaimed all responsibility.

Speakers at the conference



Dr Andrija Puharich: Cannot explain phenomenon.

will include Professor John Taylor, Professor of Mathematics at King's College London, and Colonel Tom Bearden, a retired United States Army officer, who has sinister ideas on the military implications of spoon-bending.

Colonel Bearden believes that the Soviet Union is twenty years ahead of the West on what he calls "psychotronic weaponry," and believes that "microwave" radiation allegedly being beamed at the American Embassy in Moscow is being used to implant unparanormal thoughts into the minds of embassy staff.

Dr Puharich, a former United

## AA awards seven superlative citations

By Robin Young, Consumer Affairs Correspondent

The Automobile Association today names the most restful refuge from the busy-busy of modern living in Britain. In its opinion, backed by a full colour page in the 1977 AA Guide to Hotels and Restaurants published today, it is Lastingham Grange, a hotel in 10 acres of its own fields and gardens beside Spaunton Moor, North Yorkshire.

Mr Dennis Wood, whose family has run the hotel since 1955, was rapturous about the accolade yesterday, feeling that if he had been the goose that laid the golden eggs he might just have been killed.

"It seems to defeat the object of the exercise," he said. "We may have cherubim rolling up soon, and be overrun with people." Meanwhile, according to the AA book, "visitors recall the sound of the wind, bird song and humming insects." The place obviously has charm: Mr Wood first went there in 1950 for a holiday.

The AA gives six other superlative citations. To the Ritz Hotel goes the nomination for the most elegant dining room, although, of course, the new owner, has yet to complete its £2.5m refurbishment in other parts of the hotel.

Britain's most exciting restaurant is in Edinburgh. It is called Flappers and has what the AA calls "dramatic 1920s decor... a seductive visual impact." Scotland has the prettiest restaurant too, La Poinçonne, at Gullane, Lothian, a converted sweet shop with the atmosphere of a cottage parlour.

The most authentic United Kingdom period restaurant, traditionalists may not be pleased to know, has a bistro in the bar and a courtyard geared to do-it-yourself barbecues.

The guide recommends nearly five thousand places. Of 4,052 hotels classified, only 57 are awarded red stars for special merit, £2,146 restaurants, six win triple rosettes for excellent cuisine.

There is, the AA concludes, scope for improvement, although in the best restaurants have never been better, and there are more and better hotels, and more that are better run. "We also have some of the world's worst establishments, notably those with no standards of catering in many public places... is to flag a dead horse."

AA Guide to Hotels and Restaurants, Automobile Association, £3.25 (or £2.95 to members, £3.25 by post).

## WEST EUROPE



Mr Maurits Caransa telling reporters how he was chained to a bed for five days.

## Kidnappers free Dutch millionaire for £2m in traceable banknotes

From Our Correspondent, Amsterdam, Nov 2

Mr Maurits Caransa, the Dutch property millionaire kidnapped last Friday, was set free today after negotiating his own release for a ransom of about £2m.

He said his captors had insisted emphatically that they were not political gangsters. "All we want is money," they said. Oddly enough they accepted the ransom in brand new 1,000 gulder (about £220) notes, of which the serial numbers were known.

During his 120-hour captivity, Mr Caransa said, he had been kept handcuffed to a bed in almost total darkness.

Five days almost to the minute since he was seized outside an Amsterdam nightclub on Friday Mr Caransa was left by his captors in a square in Amsterdam's harbour, quarter at about 1.30 am.

Shouting "Here is Caransa! I am the kidnapped Caransa!" he walked away with a moped who offered to give him a lift to police headquarters. However, as a taxi

arrived on the scene he took it to police headquarters, arriving at 2 am.

According to police officials he appeared somewhat dazed but otherwise in good health. After receiving medical attention and being interrogated, he was driven home by ambulance.

In the early afternoon Mr Caransa told a press conference that he had negotiated for two days over the amount of the ransom. Originally his kidnappers had demanded 40m guilders (about £9m) but had finally settled for 10m guilders.

After reaching this agreement Mr Caransa wrote to his office on Sunday afternoon with instructions to his bank to prepare the ransom money. Weighing 20 kilograms, it was handed over in the street by someone from Mr Caransa's office, who was presumably one of the kidnappers.

He said his kidnapping had been well prepared. He was taken to a room which had been specially pencilled-in, and covered with manual problems on the wall. The room had a toilet. His four captors had spoken to him over an intercom or else

hooded and gloved using a flashlight with a red filter on it.

There were two radios in his room, so that he was able to follow the news of his kidnapping. The kidnappers spoke to him in English but talked French with a Mediterranean accent amongst themselves. Mr Caransa thought that one of his abductors could have been Dutch.

When he was being overpowered in the small hours of last Friday he had feared for his life. He was continuously beaten on the head and was afraid that his kidnappers would go on until he was dead. He therefore pretended to lose consciousness.

In Amsterdam the police have found a beige car with false number plates that were looking for in connection with the kidnapping. Chief Inspector Gerard Roemer of the Amsterdam police called the kidnapping a serious criminal act which has not occurred before in The Netherlands. No effort would be spared to capture the kidnappers.

## Baader hint of suicides in Bonn official records

From Our Own Correspondent, Bonn, Nov 2

The three Baader-Meinhof terrorists who committed suicide in prison gave thinly veiled warnings that they would kill themselves in talks with federal officials during the three weeks before their deaths, according to government documents made available here.

The officials also became aware from their conversations that the terrorists, who were supposed to be isolated from the outside world and from each other during the Schleyer kidnapping and the Luftansa hijacking, knew what was going on and had contact with each other.

These details were disclosed in 224 pages of documents on the kidnapping and hijacking presented by the Government to Parliament and the press today.

They included reports by an unnamed official or officials of the Federal Criminal Office on conversations in Stammheim prison with the three terrorists: Andreas Baader, Jan-Carl Raspe and Gudrun Ensslin.

On September 27, Raspe suggested that the Government was trying to find a "police solution" to the Schleyer kidnapping, instead of releasing himself and 10 other jailed terrorists as demanded.

If that should happen, he said, the terrorists had planned a "political catastrophe," namely dead prisoners. He did not elaborate.

On October 8 Baader said he and his comrades would not put up with their situation much longer. The Government would soon "no longer have the prisoners at its disposal."

Asked if he was not being unrealistic, Baader replied, the official said, "This was a threat." In a few hours or days the jailed terrorists would make an "irrevocable decision." The official commented: "He can only have meant suicide."

The following day Ensslin said that they, rather than the Government, would soon make a decision, "in so far as it is still possible—a decision about ourselves."

## French deputies cheer Lévesque speech

From Ian Murray, Paris, Nov 2

Mr René Lévesque, the Quebec Premier, told the French National Assembly today that he "was more and more sure that a new democratic country would soon appear on the map." He was long and loudly applauded.

He confirmed that a referendum would be organized before the next Canadian elections which were due in 1980 or 1981, an idea which would put forward the choice "of a sovereign Quebec, a member of all its internal life, and of its future."

Mr Lévesque thanked the assembly for allowing him to be received there and he called for support for Quebec from the French people, all the French-speaking nations.

Mr Lévesque, who is on a three-day official visit to Paris, entered the assembly in style near the end of Question Time.

He was preceded by the main speaker of the Palais Bourbon by six ushers with tallcoats, silver-tipped sticks and black hats carried ceremonially. It

was the first time the staircase had been used since the days of Louis XV, 170 years ago. At the end of Question Time the rostrum was given over to him.

Closer links, especially economic, between France and Quebec, being worked out during Mr Lévesque's visit. In a series of talks with M. Barre, the Prime Minister, and in a meeting with President Giscard d'Estaing and the entire Government tomorrow, French officials are discussing the ways and means of future cooperation are being discussed.

The Premier arrived at Orly airport this morning, he was greeted by M. Barre, who told him: "We are going to look to ways to deepen our cooperation during your stay, which will allow us to confirm the very broadly held view that exists between the two countries."

Mr Lévesque responded in kind. He recalled the spirit of equality which existed between France and Quebec. He had come to Paris to tell the French people "where we are and where we hope to go on the path of amitié."

Leading article, page 15

## France flies out troops in hostages move

From Ian Murray, Paris, Nov 2

France has sent several DC8 transport aircraft to Cap Vert, near Dakar, Senegal, with reinforcements for the garrison there as a result of recent events in the Western Sahara. The aircraft left the airport of Toulouse-Bagnac during the night, but official sources so far have refused to say how many men were on board.

The likelihood is that 300 of the commands and paratroops who have been on stand-by since last week, when news came of the taking of two more French hostages in the Western Sahara, have been sent to within easy striking distance of the Polisario rebels. The Polisario guerrillas are fighting for the independence of Western Sahara, which has been divided between Morocco and Mauritania.

France is maintaining strong diplomatic pressure on Algeria, which is held responsible for arming and harbouring the Polisario, to use its influence to free the hostages. With six others taken in May and five who had disappeared in January of last year, the Polisario are believed to be holding 13 French nationals. So far nothing has been heard of any of them since their capture.

In French eyes these actions are no less reprehensible than that of the hijacking of the Luftansa Boeing last month. It is hoped here that they will be similarly condemned under the United Nations discussion of the capture of the Polisario.

The Algerians see things differently. Whatever proof there is of their material support for the movement, there is no proof that they have been able to control the guerrillas. Mr X, a French official, said the Polisario government has not been recognized by France. It is possible that if this were done, it would smooth the way to negotiations to free the hostages.

President Ould Daddah of Mauritania, where the French technicians kidnapped last week were working, said in an interview on French radio today that the Polisario guerrillas were 36, estimated by the Algerians see things differently. Whatever proof there is of their material support for the movement, there is no proof that they have been able to control the guerrillas. Mr X, a French official, said the Polisario government has not been recognized by France. It is possible that if this were done, it would smooth the way to negotiations to free the hostages.

The hostages are probably scattered in different camps in the desert, which would make any military operation to rescue them almost impossible.

Algeria, Nov 2.—Mr Mubammad Ould Salek, the Polisario Minister of Information, said in a press interview today: "The dispatch of French troops to Mauritania via Dakar unmasks the designs of the French Government against our region and the African continent."—AP.

## Woman jailed for spying

Düsseldorf, Nov 2.—A West German Foreign Ministry woman secretary was jailed for five years here today for spying for East Germany. Helge Bock was sentenced to a prison term of five years for passing Government secrets to East Germany during 10 years as a secretary in West Germany's trade mission in Warsaw, the embassy in Paris and the Foreign Ministry in Bonn.

## Memorial altar for Calas donated

Siracusa, Italy, Nov 2.—Singer Giovanna Marini, 40, the estranged husband of the late Maria Calas, has donated a sixteenth-century altar piece to a local church to honour the memory of the singer, who died in Paris last September.

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## Spy to appeal against order of deportation

From Ronald Kershaw, Leeds

Nicholas Prager, aged 49, an electrical engineer, formerly of Rotherham, South Yorkshire, who left Wakefield prison on Monday after serving six years of a 12-year sentence for passing Britain's V-bomber secrets while serving in the RAF, is to appeal against a deportation order, notice of which has been served on him. He will meet Mr Jack Levi, his solicitor, tomorrow to work out the details.

Mr Levi said last night that Mr Prager was in a unique position. "On the one hand he is on parole which continues until the end of his sentence, and yet he has been issued with notice of a deportation order. The deportation is to Czechoslovakia but they will not accept him, according to his wife. The British authorities may keep him here until some country will accept him."

## No protection of wildfowl area from port works

By Our Planning Reporter

The Government has confirmed that Seal Sands, Cleveland, guarded by meadows as one of Britain's most important habitats for wildfowl and other migratory birds, will not be protected from future port or industrial expansion.

Announcing approval yesterday of structure plans for Teesside, the Secretary of State for the Environment, said the continued growth of the port of Teesside was of local, regional and national importance to the overall economy. The need for developing might arise quickly and unexpectedly, and there should be freedom for it to proceed.

He had taken into account the ornithological importance of Seal Sands, and considered that the impact of port development on Teesside's nature conservation resources should be kept to a minimum and, as far as possible, compensated for.

## Socialist leader's warning on Spanish austerity

From William Chibbett, Madrid, Nov 2

Senator Gonzales, the socialist leader, warned the Spanish Government in a television interview last night that his party, the strongest opposition group in the Cortes, would be "very exacting" in making sure that the Government fulfilled the agreements contained in the two pacts on economic and political issues.

Senator Gonzales was one of four political leaders interviewed on television for the first time since the general election on June 15. He said that the agreements meant that the Opposition was not disappointed but now has to fulfil a very different and interesting role. We Socialists will be a

very constructive Opposition. The Socialist Party has 118 of the 350 seats in the Congress of Deputies.

Senator Gonzales said that the ceiling for wage-increases of 22 per cent for 1978 should not apply to those on the lower end of the pay scale and that those higher up should accept less.

Senator Santiago Carrillo, the Communist leader, who left for Moscow today, said that the wage ceiling was unacceptable. He cited the case of Britain, where the government had a wage guideline of 10 per cent while prices, he said, were increasing by 20 per cent. In Spain the percentages were even.

The economic pact stipulates that price increases will be kept

to a maximum of 22 per cent for 1978, with a 10 per cent wage rise of the same amount. Both Senator Carrillo and Senator Gonzales said that if prices rose above the agreed rate (inflation is running at 30 per cent at the moment) then they would support a higher wage ceiling.

Senator Carrillo said that there were certain sectors, which he called the "economic bunker," who were out to "force an economic crisis."

Senator Manuel Fraga Iribarren, the conservative leader of the Popular Alliance, was more adamant on political issues. The Alliance was the only party not to sign the political pact. In a reference to the planned reorganisation of the police, he said that the state was being

"disarmed" against terrorism and subversion.

"The positive thing is that parties have given up party politics for the next two years and we all believe that we have to work harder and save more."

The last to speak, Senator Leopoldo Calvo Sotelo, of the ruling Democratic Centre Union, said that in an exceptional situation exceptional measures were needed. The fact that the economic measures were left of centre did not mean that the Centre party had renounced its centrist election programme.

Senator Calvo Sotelo said that political fighting had been postponed for the time being. "We are near to the consolidation of democracy," he said, "and everyone understands that and is capable of making sacrifices."



## OVERSEAS

## Council proposed for supervising ethics code to end corruption

From Our Correspondent  
Hongkong, Nov. 2

Corruption has become such a "creeping pollution" of the social, political and economic life in most countries of the world that governments must be shamed into action to end it, Lord Shawcross said in an address to the Hongkong Chamber of Commerce.

In some parts of South-East Asia, the Middle East and Latin America, corruption was so prevalent that it was not regarded as unethical at all. There are only two countries in which corruption no longer exists, although once it did, Lord Shawcross said. "One is China, from a third tour of which I have just come back. The other is Singapore in which under the strong leadership of that remarkable man, Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew, corruption has been vigorously suppressed."

For the rest, corruption occurred in virtually all countries and was eroding the fair and open competition on which private enterprise was based.

Lord Shawcross made it clear that his remarks were not directed at Hongkong, which was tackling the problem in a realistic way, but he was speaking here as the result of an invitation from the Chamber to address it on the problem of international corruption.

"In the international field, corruption is by no means confined to the police and to public officials," he said. "It is something which in all countries—although more in some than others—is a creeping pollution of our social, political and economic life."

"Its existence is being used, with great hypocrisy, in the United Nations and elsewhere by some developing countries as a stick with which to beat private enterprise in general and the transnational corporations in particular, regardless of the fact that it is in these very countries that the hands are being held out to receive the bribes which would never be paid but for the pressures which are exerted on those engaged in international commerce. Bribery now is mainly the reaction to extortion."

In 1975, the International Chamber of Commerce set up a commission to study the problem, consisting of himself, M. Jean Rey, one-time chairman of the European Commission, Shakh Yamani of Saudi Arabia, Mr. Kheredjion, a leading banker from Iran, Mr. William Simon, a former Secretary of the United States Treasury, and other well-known figures. They presented their report a month ago.

"It contains strong recommendations to governments to

clean up matters in their own countries. We must shame some of these governments into action. But the international business community cannot afford to wait upon action by governments that will take years. We must act now."

"We have drawn a code of ethical practices to combat extortion and bribery or kick-backs. They insist upon proper and true financial records—no false invoices or slush funds and so forth."

The observance of this code was of course voluntary so they considered it essential to set up an international council to supervise its application; otherwise it would be a toothless animal.

"We already have such a council to administer the codes on advertising and marketing practices which has worked well. The proposed council would have, as a last resort, only if legal action, diplomatic representation or negotiation was not available, the right, at its discretion, to hear complaints that the code had been broken."

But even here the council could adjudicate only if the concern against which the complaint was made consented to the jurisdiction.

These were perhaps but milk teeth, but they could afford great protection to businesses exposed to extortion. They would be able to say: "We cannot pay because we should get into trouble under the ICC code."

The commission's work was finished and it was now for the International Chamber of Commerce meeting at the end of the month to decide whether to adopt the report. Our Business News Staff writes: A spokesman for the International Chamber of Commerce said in London that the commission's report would be considered by its policy-making council on November 29. To the best of his knowledge, there was no intention of making the draft code on ethical practices public until the council had met.

Washington, Nov. 2.—The House of Representatives yesterday passed a Bill to outlaw bribes and other improper payments by American companies and their foreign subsidiaries.

It sets a \$1m (£550,000) fine for corporations making such payments. Officers and directors who approved these payments would face \$10,000 fines and up to five years jail.

A similar Bill was passed by the Senate in May but the fines it proposes are smaller and foreign subsidiaries are not covered, so a House-Senate conference may be needed to work out these differences.—Reuters.

### Hit-and-run journalist must go to jail

Hongkong, Nov. 2.—A Canadian journalist today failed to persuade a magistrate to review a jail sentence for offences arising from a hit-and-run traffic accident in which a policeman was severely injured. Barrie Came, of Newsweek magazine, was last week convicted of dangerous driving, causing grievous bodily harm, and failing to stop after an accident. He was jailed for a month, fined about £240 and disqualified from driving for two years.

Rejecting an application for a review of sentence, Mr. Paul Corio, the magistrate, said he appreciated that the driving ban would affect Mr. Came's career.

### Manila troops overrun Muslim camp

Zamboanga City, Nov. 2.—Government forces overran a large Muslim rebel camp in the southern Philippines yesterday after two weeks of fierce fighting, military authorities said today.

They said that a number of rebel officers and men were either killed or captured in the stronghold in the mountains of Tabon, 50 miles north-east of Zamboanga City.

A number of government soldiers were reported killed but no official casualty figures were released. Tabon was described as a rough and foggy coastal area difficult to penetrate by ground forces.—UPI.

### Greek protest at shelving of Cyprus atrocities report

From Our Correspondent  
Athens, Nov. 2

Greece has protested strongly to the EEC over its initiative in having the report of the Human Rights Commission on alleged Turkish atrocities in Cyprus shelved at the last meeting of the Council of Europe.

The report, excerpts of which have leaked to the British press, is still officially secret. So is the Turkish Government's 500-page reply and counter-charges.

Now it is understood that a proposal sponsored by the EEC governments, postponing publication of the report was adopted at a recent meeting. The proposal gives a time-limit of nine months for the adoption of "appropriate measures" to remedy human

rights abuses in Cyprus, but apparently does not specify which side must adopt the measures.

Mr. Demetrios Bitsios, the Greek Foreign Minister, last week summoned the Belgian Ambassador to express the Greek Government's sharp reaction and annoyance at the position taken by the EEC countries.

It is understood that Mr. Bitsios described the EEC move as a blow to the prestige and credibility of the Council of Europe.

There are indications that the shelving of the report was prompted by hopes that the elimination of this embarrassing issue would help current American-EEC efforts to induce Turkey to make concessions that would facilitate a Cyprus settlement.

### The Prince of Wales buys himself a painting

Canberra, Nov. 2.—The Prince of Wales began his 11-day visit to Australia in Canberra today by presenting a prize for an essay on Australia and the monarchy to the great-granddaughter of a seamstress to Queen Victoria.

He asked 17-year-old Annette Shoolman, winner of the nationwide competition: "Was the essay polite?" Her only answer was a giggle.

Observing that 15 per cent of the schoolchildren who submitted entries were in favour of a republic, the Prince remarked: "That really means 25 per cent are in favour of the monarchy, and that's not a bad score in these times."

Competition judges said they were disappointed at the stan-

dard of the 6,000 entries and called for a review of the teaching of British history in Australian schools.

The Prince later opened an exhibition of paintings entitled "The Bushmen of the Bush", the proceeds of which went to charity.

He bought himself a painting of his favourite sport, polo, for £A450 (£280). The painting, by John N. Pickup, is called "The Home Team attacks." It shows an outback polo match at Broken Hill in the far west of New South Wales.

Afterwards he walked through the streets of Canberra, joking and shaking hands with passers-by. He leaves for Brisbane tomorrow.—Reuters and AP.

Like the time an Avis manager, returning from abroad, found that his car had been rented out due to a sudden demand for cars, and had to travel home by public transport.

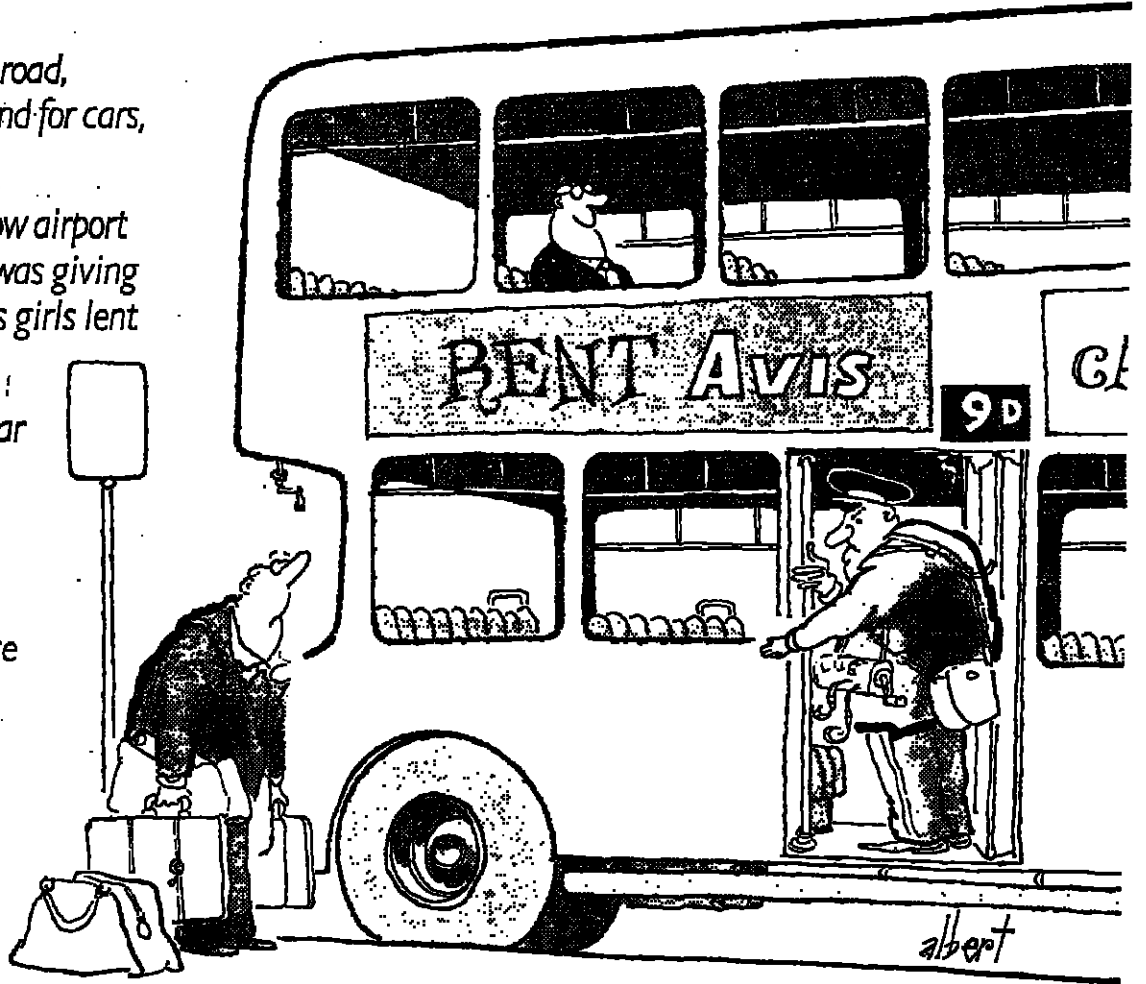
Like the time a customer turned up at our Glasgow airport desk. He was in a panic because he was late for a lecture he was giving at the University. No Avis car was available, so one of our Avis girls lent him her own for the evening.

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## OVERSEAS

# Lord Carver pelted with rotten tomatoes by an African group on his arrival in Salisbury

From Nicholas Ashford  
Salisbury, Nov 2

Field Marshal Lord Carver, the British Resident Commissioner designate in Rhodesia, today arrived in the city which will soon become his temporary home. His reception by Rhodesian government officials was coolly polite, but he received a hostile welcome from a group of African demonstrators.

Lord Carver is in Salisbury to talk about arranging a ceasefire between the Rhodesian forces and guerrillas belonging to the nationalist Patriotic Front. As it is understood, the urgency of his mission, shortly after his arrival, a rocket fired from a Zambian territory hit a luxurious hotel at Victoria Falls, setting the roof ablaze. Mr. Peter van der Byl, the Foreign Minister, commented that this was Zambian way of welcoming Lord Carver on his peace mission.

Lord Carver was followed by General P. van der Byl, the United Nations representative, who was accompanied by Mr.

James Jonah from Sierra Leone. Mr. Macaire Pedanou, from Togo, Mr. Benon Sevan, from Cyprus, and Colonel Gerald O'Sullivan from the Irish Army.

Both Lord Carver and General Chaud arrived from Dar es Salaam where they had held talks with Mr. Joshua Nkomo and Mr. Robert Mngabe, the leaders of the Patriotic Front. They are travelling separately to make it clear that they have different functions.

Lord Carver received a noisy welcome when he arrived at Mirimba House, the former British High Commissioner's residence, where he is staying. A group of about 60 supporters of the Zambian United People's Organisation (Zupo) brandished placards and pelted Lord Carver's car with rotten bananas and tomatoes. Zupo, an organisation comprising traditional tribal leaders, has not been invited to meet Lord Carver.

Shortly after this incident Lord Carver and General Chaud began their first round of talks with Rhodesian military leaders.

Present on the Rhodesian side were Lieutenant-General Peter Walls, commander of combined operations, Lieutenant-General John Hickman, the Army commander, Air Marshal Frank Mused, chief of the Air Force and Police Commissioner Peter Sherren.

It is expected that Lord Carver will stay in Rhodesia until the end of the week. He will have further meetings with military and civilian officials as well as the heads of the two internally based nationalist groups, Bishop Abel Muzorewa and the Rev Ndabaningi Sithole.

According to informed sources Lord Carver will visit other African states. These are expected to include other "front line" states—Botswana, Mozambique and Zambia—and probably Nigeria.

The rocket incident took place at Victoria Falls, close to the Zambian border. According to a military spokesman a heat-seeking rocket was fired at a light aircraft which was flying towards the falls. It missed and hit the detached roof of the Elephant Hills hotel.

## Mr Carter losing support

From Our Own Correspondent  
Washington, Nov 2

An opinion poll published by *The New York Times* today shows a further slump in President Carter's popularity. Mr. Carter's overall approval rating has dropped to 55 per cent. It was 62 per cent in July and 66 per cent last January. The public's confidence in the President's ability to carry out his various electoral promises also dropped.

Fifty-one per cent think that he can restore trust in government. Compared with nearly 70 per cent last summer, only 36 per cent think he can reduce unemployment substantially and 22 per cent he can balance the budget by 1981.

Other findings in the poll are more encouraging for the President. Only 31 per cent approve, and 50 disapprove, of the way Congress is doing its job (Mr. Carter's figures are 55 and 47, respectively).

On specific policies, however, the President lacks support. The Panama treaties are opposed by 49 per cent of those asked and defended by 29 per cent, while 51 per cent do not believe there is an energy crisis.

## House and Senate at odds on energy bill

From Patrick Brogan  
Washington, Nov 2

The Senate has completed its energy bills. These measures are now being considered together with the radically different Bill from the House of Representatives, by a joint committee of the two Houses.

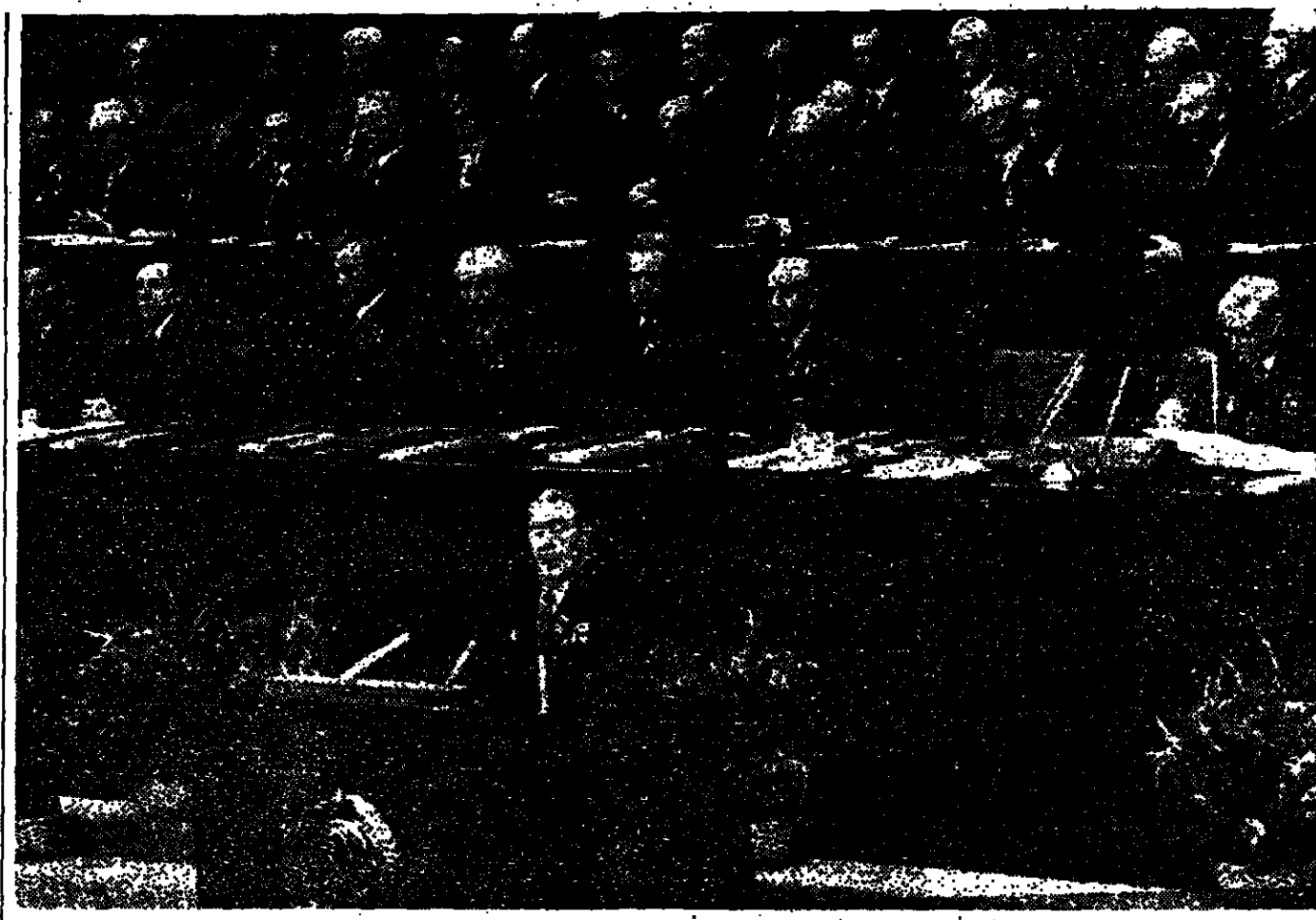
The two versions are so incompatible, and the positions taken by the two sides are so intransigent, that it remains quite possible that there will be no Bill at all. President Carter was planning to leave on a world tour on November 22 and may very well have to postpone the trip in order to help his energy package through.

Sixty-seven members of the House have sent a letter to Mr. Carter urging him to stick to his guns. The House Bill is very similar to the one Mr. Carter sent to Congress last April, and its supporters in the House fear that the President's desperate search for some achievement this year, may bow to the will of Senator Russell Long, and back the Senate against his own Bill. Mr. Long is chairman of the finance committee, and the Senate last week gave him carte blanche for his dealings with the House in the joint committee. His skill on such occasions is a proof of his wisdom: no other senator in

memory can match it, and the House liberals are rightly afraid Mr. Long represents the oil-producing state of Louisiana. He accepts that there is an oil crisis and that consumption must be curbed, but he does not believe that the oil companies are engaging in the greater rip-off in "Mazda", as Mr. Carter has said.

The President and the House want oil production to be taxed to force its price up and to discourage consumption, and to tax "gas-guzzlers" cars which use too much petrol. Mr. Long's committee (and the full Senate) rejected both these measures and approved instead a series of tax exemptions for oil companies, to excite them to produce more oil.

The Senate has produced a version of Mr. Carter's other proposed tax, that on power companies and industries which use oil instead of coal. However, it would only apply to users of fuel oil who could change to coal if they wished, and contains many exemptions. The House version would apply to everyone. The President proposed, and the House agreed, that tax raised from energy should be returned to the public in the form of a rebate. Mr. Long thinks the idea idiotic.



Kremlin chiefs and leaders of foreign Communist parties listen as President Brezhnev delivers his 90-minute address.

## Drop in Soviet grain harvest surprises West

Moscow, Nov 2.—The Soviet grain harvest, a key factor in the country's economy, has fallen well below its official target this year. President Brezhnev disclosed today. Speaking at a Kremlin rally, Mr. Brezhnev said farmers were expected to produce 194m tonnes of grain, a level which would almost certainly mean increased Soviet purchases on the world market.

Western experts, who had predicted a fairly poor crop because of bad weather, were taken by surprise at the figure, about 15m tonnes short of the plan. It comes as a setback to Soviet agricultural chiefs who were hoping to follow up last year's record 223.8m tonne crop.

The previous year a disastrous 140m tonne harvest led to shortages across the country and soaring grain imports.

Mr. Brezhnev, touching briefly

on agriculture in his speech marking the sixtieth anniversary of the Revolution, announced that the cotton crop was expected to equal the previous 8m tonne record. Meat production had increased from last year's 13.4m tonnes to nearly 15m tonnes, he added.

He partly attributed the harvest losses to the poor weather which has plagued farmers throughout the Soviet Union. But he alluded to the chronic inefficiency which has afflicted Soviet agriculture since the Revolution.

"I believe these figures merit due appreciation," although we are aware that not all the problems of agriculture have been resolved," he said.

Western agricultural experts said the 1977 results were hurt by early summer droughts in a number of key grain-growing areas east of the Volga river, and by disastrous rains at har-

vest time in North Kazakhstan and Western Siberia.

The extent of those losses obviously caught Western analysts off guard since their latest October projections were for a 1977 Soviet harvest of 205m tonnes of grain. The harvest is now estimated to have been completed throughout the country and although the state is still purchasing grain in some regions all harvesting and threshing has finished.

The final 1977 harvest figure would come within 2m tonnes of the figure projected by Mr. Brezhnev. Western experts predicted they said the European part of the Soviet Union—the Ukraine, Byelorussia and the Moscow regions—harvested a bumper grain crop this year.

The major failure—a short fall of between one-half and one-third of the crop—occurred on the virgin lands of North

Kazakhstan where persistent rains hammered ripe grains flat. This is the first time the Soviet Union has sharply (together with various other countries) cut its grain exports to Western Europe. The Russians are expected to buy at least 6m tonnes of American wheat and maize each year. In the first year of the pact, which began with deliveries in October, 1976, they bought about the minimum quantity.

The United States Department of Agriculture has said that as far this year the Soviet Union has bought about 2.3m tonnes. Up to 15m tonnes of American grain would be available for sale to Russia this year.

## West puts up new proposals on manoeuvres

Belgrade, Nov 2.—The West today proposed major new measures to promote East-West military détente, calling for the early notification of much smaller troop manoeuvres than at present.

The proposals, submitted by four western countries at the 35-nation European security conference here, also urged the greater notification of large group movements.

Mr. Leif Mevik, the Norwegian delegate, who presented the proposals jointly with Canada, Britain and Holland, said the measures were a "major western initiative" designed to secure fuller implementation of the 1975 Helsinki accords, which the Belgrade conference is reviewing.

The proposals, going well beyond the Helsinki provisions, call for notification at least three weeks in advance of manoeuvres involving "fewer than 25,000 troops and more than 10,000 tanks".

The Helsinki accords stipulated prior notification of manoeuvres above 25,000 men, and western diplomats pointed out that most manoeuvres by the Soviet-led Warsaw Pact were below this figure.

Mr. Mevik told reporters that delegates from Eastern bloc countries stated they would study the draft in the light of the Helsinki accords, but he said they were non-committal.

Mr. Mevik said the proposals were fully backed by the United States, and western diplomats said they represented an agreed draft by all Nato countries although they wanted to avoid giving the open impression of a block approach at the talks.

The draft was in many ways similar to proposals put forward by seven European neutral countries last Friday to expand military "confidence-building measures", but were more detailed in some areas.

The western draft lays down that all countries represented here should give prior notification of troop movements—as distinct from actual manoeuvres—of 25,000 or more ground troops. This would apply if they were moving for a "co-ordinated purpose", during a period of 30 consecutive days, and for a distance of more than 200 kilometres (about 128 miles) from their point of origin.

—Reuters.

## Arab youths in West Bank demonstration

Tel Aviv, Nov 2.—Dozens of Arab youths demonstrated in Nablus in the West Bank today on the sixtieth anniversary of the Balfour declaration which viewed "with favour the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people".

The youths gathered in schoolyards shouting nationalist slogans and waving Palestinian flags, but their demonstration was generally orderly, except for some stone throwing. There were also some cases of stone throwing in Ramallah.

## American experiment with 'one day, one trial' system uses computer to eliminate tedium and saves on costs

### Taking waiting out of jury service

From Our Own Correspondent  
Washington, Nov 2

The day Dottie received her notice to appear as a juror in Wayne County, Michigan, she was getting her six-year-old child ready for school. The idea of fulfilling her civic duty was not particularly attractive, because she knew that jury service would last a full month.

She had two young children and the car was needed by her sister. The cost of a babysitter and transport would never be covered by the \$15 (\$8.30) a day juror's allowance. So armed with two very plausible excuses she sought a way out.

Harry was in a different position when he received his summons. He was a self-employed bachelor and thought it would make a pleasant change from his somewhat uninspiring job.

By the end of a month of waiting round "court" ante-rooms and attending court hearings from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., he was too tired from the last evening he spent looking after his normal business duties to pay much attention to the proceedings during his final days in court.

The experiences of Dottie and Harry have been shared by two million or so other American citizens called for jury service each year. Most say they are bored, frustrated,

and financially worse off because of the traditional jury system which can entail months of waiting to be called to a courtroom and then sitting through the long process of selecting jurors for each trial.

Under the new system, a juror is selected from a master list of registered voters by a computer, which mails a personal history questionnaire to determine whether he or she is acceptable.

On the basis of the replies two lists of qualified jurors are drawn up, one group for regular and the other for standby duties. In the latter case the prospective juror would be called up only if needed by a recording whether to report for duty on his allotted day.

On their reporting day, the jurors are shown a 16-minute videotape of the trial process and their role as jurors. They then await assignment.

Those who are selected report to the appropriate courtroom every day until the trial is completed. They then go home. Those who are not accepted are dismissed at the end of the day and that fulfils their jury service for the year.

After six months of experience, the authorities have found that the new system, once the initial expense of setting it up has been covered, actually saves money. Leading article, page 15

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## Warm US welcome for Brezhnev nuclear offer

From Our Own Correspondent  
Washington, Nov 2

The American Government gave a warm welcome this morning to President Brezhnev's proposals on a test ban treaty. Mr. Cyrus Vance, the Secretary of State, said that the President's speech was an important step forward towards a full test ban treaty.

Americans shared the Soviet view that there should be a down-turn in the arms race, and he welcomed Mr. Brezhnev's call for a moratorium on peaceful nuclear explosions. The proposed moratorium, he said, would run as long as the test ban treaty, which is being negotiated at Geneva, and the United States favoured a treaty running four or five years.

Mr. Vance denied a report in *The New York Times* this morning which said the United States had warned the Soviet Union that if it tried and sentenced dissidents it would harm the chances of the Salt negotiations. However, the Secretary agreed that Washington had interceded with the Soviet Government on behalf of the dissidents on a number of occasions, and that it had done so recently.

He denied that there was a direct "linkage" between human rights in Russia and Salt. This is the line which has been taken by the Carter Administration from its early days, when it criticized the Soviet Union sharply (together with various other countries) for its human rights record.

The détente policy, and the Salt treaty, will depend upon public support here, however, and it would not be surprising if American officials had pointed out to the Russians how little sympathy they win when they put dissidents, or Jewish would-be emigrants, on trial.

The Secretary would not give any details of the state of the Salt negotiations. There are any number of difficulties in this very leaky city but said that they were proceeding well. He said that the Salt-II agreement would provide for a ban on new development and deployment of new missile systems, and that such a ban would be of great value to the peace of the world.

Mr. Vance, who was giving his monthly press conference, was not very forthcoming on the various other matters raised. He said that it was still the American aim to reconvene the Geneva Middle East conference before the end of the year, but refused to go near to attainment that objective was.

He repeated that the United States was firmly committed to the security of Israel.

Mr. Vance again deplored the "regrettable backward step" taken by the South African Government, saying that it had been made clear to Mr. Vorster's ministers that relations with South Africa would improve if there were progress towards an end of apartheid, and that progress in the opposite direction would harm relations.

The United States had withdrawn its commercial counsel from Johannesburg and its naval attaché from Pretoria, and expected to vote for the mandatory arms trade ban in the Security Council. It had vetoed the ban on economic sanctions because there was no international consensus on the matter.

Mr. Vance was asked about President Carter's proposed trip to nine countries at the end of this month, which has been much criticized. Indeed the President might yet cancel it in order to fight for the Energy Bill here.

The Secretary justified the trip, offering as one reason that the President would be able to emphasize to America's main oil suppliers the need to increase oil production in Venezuela, Saudi Arabia and Iran, among other places.

## Chief spurns Vorster summons

Johannesburg, Nov 2.—Chief Gosa Butheles, the Zulu leader, has turned down an invitation from Mr. Vorster, the South African Prime Minister, to attend a meeting tomorrow of leaders of bantustans (black homelands) with his Government.

The meeting is to study modifications to the Pass Law, which restricts the movement of blacks.

A spokesman for the chief, a moderate opponent of apartheid, said he refused to have any part in "cosmetic changes" of this law.

The South African Indian Council, meeting in Durban today, unanimously rejected the white Government's proposed new constitution. The Coloured Representative Council, representing mixed race people, had already rejected the proposal, providing for three parliaments—one white, one Indian and one Coloured.—Agence France-Press.

## 22 drowned in Tanzania

Dar es Salaam, Nov 2.—Twenty-two people are believed drowned after a pontoon ferry capsized in the river Rufiji.

## School suicides shock Japanese

Continued from page 1

hours if he hopes to pass a series of entrance examinations during his nine years of compulsory education. Once assured of a place in the right kindergarten, preparatory and high school, a student can then hope to hop on the escalator to the elite universities and subsequently to employment in leading companies. The places are limited and the competition tough.

The struggle begins at the age of seven and continues for 12 years. Many children are forced to take a test before they are admitted to the cramming schools, in turn preparing them for entrance examinations at formal institutions of education.

Besides these cramming schools, students also face a formal six-day school week during their initial struggle for survival.

In one report, sociologists pointed out that children on the outskirts of Tokyo start the day at 4.30 in the morning to attend special private lessons. At 8 am they join formal school classes. Later in the afternoon they travel across the city to study at private *juku* and then at a two-hour journey home in the evening they complete their homework by 11 pm.

The fact that many families are forced to pay prohibitive fees to special private cramming schools places an extra psychological strain on the average child.

Miss Yoko Watanabe, a sociologist, says that many of the children who have taken

their lives this year have failed to live up to their parents' hopes or have succumbed to the pressures of the entrance study and the lack of adequate relaxation.

The ages of the victims range between nine years olds in elementary school and university students aged 22.

The examples are numerous. Two weeks ago the 14-year-old son of a clerk in Osaka threw himself in front of an express train. Police later declared the boy was studying for a senior high school entrance examination. However, the child had taken his life because he was convinced he would have failed the exam.

In another case a boy of 13 committed suicide in Tokyo last week because he could not produce an adequate picture during a school art exhibition. Another elementary student hanged himself because he was not allowed to watch a television programme.

Ironically, the rate of adult suicides has declined in recent years in contrast to the sharp increase in self-inflicted deaths of children and teenagers.

According to the police report—the first study on child suicide published here—338 juveniles killed themselves between March and August this year.

In September, the country witnessed a surge in child suicides—an average of one a day during the month. In most cases the victims hanged themselves or leapt from tall buildings.

Records at the Ministry of

Public Welfare show that 46 children between the ages of five and 14 committed suicide in 1966. The figure had risen to 90 in 1975, a shock itself, but the figure at the end of the present year will overshadow anything previously recorded.

In a chilling comment on child suicides, Mr. Kiyoko Morita, the respected commentator of *Japan Times*, says: "One of the main sources of the pressures is the demand that they get good grades or pass the entrance examinations of desirable schools. This is supported by the fact that a relatively large number of child suicides were reported in February and March—the period when entrance examinations are held."

By the same token, September saw many children killing themselves because they were unable to produce the required homework during the summer holiday or, even though they did produce it, it was not satisfactory to them.

Reflecting the same view, the daily newspaper, *Yomiuri Shimbun* declared last month: "Japan's fiercely competitive school system is generally regarded as the primary culprit in causing young people to throw away their lives."

In Japan the road to worldly success is tied to the school system. Most students are therefore forced by their parents to attend schools after hours.



## OVERSEAS

## Mr Bhutto accuses United States of plotting his downfall

From Hassan Akhtar

Islamabad, Nov. 2—Mr Bhutto, the former Prime Minister at present detained in Lahore jail under martial law, has accused General Zia of overthrowing him last July as part of a plot aided by a "foreign power".

In a signed statement submitted in the Supreme Court as a rejoinder to government charges against him, Mr. Bhutto avoided naming the foreign power. However, elaborate references in his 84-page statement and his denunciations of Americans when the anti-Bhutto movement was at its peak last summer leave no doubt that he is accusing the United States of plotting against him with the active support of his Army Chief of Staff who has now become head of the Government.

As an indication of General Zia's involvement in such a conspiracy, Mr Bhutto said the Chief of Staff had given a farewell reception for the retiring envoy of an unnamed power. General Zia did in fact arrange a farewell reception last April for Mr Henry Byroade, the American Ambassador.

Bhutto stated: "I was still in Lahore (in April) when the Foreign Office informed me that despite my strict instructions that no senior official or minister could give receptions and banquets without the prior permission of the Foreign Office, the respondent (General Zia) had not bothered about these standing instructions by

## Indian press silenced by a power cut

From Richard Wigg

Delhi, Nov. 2—On the night that the 1975 emergency was imposed on India it was decided to silence the Delhi newspapers by a total power cut, a commission headed by Mr Justice Shah was told here today.

Mr Kishan Chand, former lieutenant governor of Delhi, said the decision was taken in the Prime Minister's office with Mrs Gandhi herself in the chair. He could not remember, however, whether the order given him to stop the presses had come from Mrs Gandhi or from Mr Om Mehta, the deputy Home Minister.

When Mr Justice Shah, who is conducting an inquiry into the excesses of the 20-month emergency, asked why he had agreed to carry out such an arbitrary act, Mr Chand replied that he regarded it as a political decision. He had been told it was done for "security reasons".

The power cuts stopped Delhi morning papers from appearing, thus preventing the news of the mass arrests of opposition politicians reaching the general public. The power cut in the newspaper district remained in force for three days, in order to give the Gandhi Government time to setup full-scale censorship.

Mr Harry D'Penha, the chief censor during the emergency, said he had acted "on superior orders" when he was asked by the judge why court judgments critical of the Government had been forbidden publication.

After some hesitation Mr D'Penha explained that he was referring to Mr V. C. Shukla, the Information Minister, or to senior civil servants at his ministry. Mr Justice Shah then challenged him: "Why not be frank and say all the censorship has all done on the instructions of the minister?"

At previous hearings a detailed picture emerged of how the Government manoeuvred with influential subscribers and trade unions against India's four privately owned and economically vulnerable news agencies.

Mr Shukla denied that Mrs Gandhi had personally ordered the enforced merger of the two existing English language agencies with the two Hindi ones to form Samachar, the state monopoly agency. He also denied that a main aim was to make censorship of all news easier.

But he answered: "Yes" when Mr Justice Shah put it to him that "other methods... to induce, persuade or compel" the merger, after the Cabinet had decided against doing it had quickly brought results.

Three editors of small magazines, which attempted to be critical of the Government even after the big papers had been more or less curbed by censorship also told the commission how quotations from the Gita (a Hindu sacred text), court judgments, and even jokes which the censors did not themselves understand but suspected of criticizing the Government, were deleted and how printing presses refused to handle their copy.

## Search by Arabs for joint policy

Damascus, Nov. 2.—The leaders of Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Syria and Jordan met in twin sessions today to coordinate Arab Middle East strategy.

King Husain of Jordan arrived in the Syrian capital for talks with President Assad, and President Sadat of Egypt conferred with King Khalid of Saudi Arabia in Riyadh.

King Husain planned to fly later to Riyadh to join Mr Sadat and King Khalid.

The round of high-level contacts was the latest in a series of Arab efforts to coordinate political and military moves in view of the growing conviction that the chances of success of a Geneva peace conference, if ever convened, would be dim.—UPI.

## Palestinian leader disowned

Beirut, Nov. 2.—The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine said today that more than 20 months ago it expelled Dr Wadi Haddad, who is reported to have organized last month's hijacking of a Lufthansa aircraft to Mogadishu.

Dr Haddad used to head the Front's "foreign operations" section, which staged a series of spectacular hijackings and acts of violence in the late 1960s and early 1970s.

Reliable sources say that he is now in charge of a splinter group, which mounted the hijacking of the Lufthansa airliner. Reuters and UPI.

## 1,000 arrested in Cairo clean-up

Cairo, Nov. 2.—Three thousand armed police, some of them opening fire, raided underworld strongholds in Cairo and surrounding areas today and arrested more than 1,000 criminals, an Interior Ministry spokesman said. The raids had been in preparation for a month and followed penetration of the Cairo underworld.

## Colombian kidnap

Bogota, Nov. 2.—Herr Peter Heinsche, aged 41, a West German industrialist, was kidnapped in north-western Colombia by a group calling itself the Colombian Revolutionary Armed Forces.

## In brief

## Troops get trains moving again

Buenos Aires, Nov. 2.—Argentina's military Government today sent in troops to get the capital's underground trains moving again, five days after workers went on strike for higher pay.

Although two of the five lines were running irregularly by midday, with soldiers riding beside the drivers and guarding stations, there appeared tonight to be no sign of an end to the dispute. A similar dispute on the national railways is also unresolved.

## Hearst appeal fails

San Francisco, Nov. 2.—A federal appeals court has upheld the conviction of Miss Patricia Hearst, the newspaper heiress at present free on bail, for a Los Angeles bank robbery in 1974. She had been sentenced to "seven years" jail.

## Sri Lankan freedom

Colombo, Nov. 2.—The Sri Lanka Government has released 136 people, jailed by the previous Government for offences during the insurgency in 1971, and six people imprisoned for foreign exchange offences.

## Christians arrested

Nairobi, Nov. 2.—Several hundred Ugandan Christians have been arrested in the Masaka area, 60 miles west of Kampala, after the murder of a Muslim businessman. Some are already believed to have been killed, according to reports here.

## Perry Como damages

Burbank, California, Nov. 2.—Perry Como, the singer, who is 63, has been awarded \$257,509 (\$139,000) for injuries suffered when he fell off a stage while filming a 1971 Christmas show for the NBC television network.

## Law Report November 2 1977

## Court of Appeal

## Woman teacher, 61, entitled to sue

Nottingham v Barnett London

Before Lord Denning, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Lawton and Lord Justice Evers

A woman teacher, who at 61 had not reached the normal retiring age for her profession of 65, was not deprived by paragraph 10(b) of Schedule 1 to the Trade Union and Labour Relations Act, 1974, of her right not to be unfairly dismissed. The provision in the second limb of paragraph 10(b) that she was unable to do her job was not applicable to her. She was entitled to sue for unfair dismissal.

The first question was the meaning of "normal retiring age". It was held that it was the age at which a person should or must retire at a certain age that was the normal retiring age.

The second question was whether the normal retiring age was 65. It was held that it was 65.

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## Book debts transactions assignments

Lloyds and Scottish Finance Ltd v Prentice and Others

Even if transactions under a "block discounting" agreement had been carried out by the parties in the manner involving substantial departures from that prescribed by the agreement, the agreement had remained in effect throughout as defining the contractual relations between the parties, and accordingly the transactions, and been absolute assignments of book debts as provided by the agreement and not mere charges on book debts so as to be void in a liquidation as being unregistered.

The Court of Appeal allowed an appeal by the plaintiff finance house, Lloyds and Scottish Finance Ltd, from a decision of Mr Justice Megaw in February, 1976, in favour of the defendants, Cyril Lord Carparts Sales Ltd (in liquidation) and its liquidators.

LORD JUSTICE MEGAW, sitting with Lord Justice Lawton and Sir David Cairns, said, in a judgment of the court, that by section 93 of the Northern Ireland Companies Act, 1960 (section 95 of the English Companies Act, 1948) a charge on book debts of a company was void against the liquidator of the company on a liquidation unless it had been registered in accordance with the section.

The assignments in the present case, of credit sale agreements between Cyril Lord, who had carried on business in Northern Ireland in the manufacture and retail sale of carpets, and their customers, had not been registered.

The question was, therefore, whether they had been absolute assignments of the debts, which would be valid against the liquidator, or charges on them.

There was no doubt that the block discounting agreement, which provided for Lloyds to make advances to Cyril Lord in respect of blocks of credit sale agreements, had been for the absolute assignment of the customers' debts to Lloyds. The liquidators contended that in the transactions carried out pursuant to the agreement there had been such substantial departures by the parties from

its terms that the true nature of the transactions had been to create charges on book debts and not their absolute assignment.

In particular the agreement had provided for 80 per cent of the value of the blocks of debts assigned to Lloyds, less a percentage for interest, to be paid to Cyril Lord at the times of the assignments, and a further 20 per cent, less any collection charges, to be paid to Cyril Lord when all the moneys due from the customers had been paid to Lloyds.

In practice, however, provided Cyril Lord had met all their banker's order payments to Lloyds in respect of the 80 per cent referable to a particular block assignment, that assignment had then been treated as completed; Cyril Lord had been allowed to retain the remaining 20 per cent of customers' payments for themselves and no further advance of 20 per cent had been made.

There was no question of the transactions having been a "sham", nor had the parties had any intention of creating a charge over book debts or merely making a series of loans. The fact that while all went well, the parties had not insisted on operating the transactions strictly according to the terms of the agreement,

which would in practice have been inconvenient, did not produce the effect that in law the terms which by the agreement had been specifically agreed to apply to the transactions were not relevant in defining the parties' legal rights and obligations. The assignments had in law been subject to the terms of the agreement, and they had been absolute assignments of the customers' debts and not merely charges on book debts.

An unfortunate question arose of stamp duty. Each of the block assignments should have been stamped with payment of the appropriate duty under the Stamp Acts. Not one had been. Even more regrettably, there had at least in some instances been an "adjustment" of the amounts of money involved in particular assignments so as to result in less duty being payable than if the correct amounts had been inserted.

Their Lordships had accepted an appropriate undertaking by Lloyds' solicitors, but if there should be similar cases hereafter of apparently deliberate disregard of the requirements of the Stamp Acts in transactions of this nature the court might find it necessary in its discretion to refuse to admit the unstamped documents in evidence.

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LORD JUSTICE LAWTON, sitting with Lord Justice Megaw and Sir David Cairns, said, in a judgment of the court, that by section 93 of the Northern Ireland Companies Act, 1960 (section 95 of the English Companies Act, 1948) a charge on book debts of a company was void against the liquidator of the company on a liquidation unless it had been registered in accordance with the section.

The assignments in the present case, of credit sale agreements between Cyril Lord, who had carried on business in Northern Ireland in the manufacture and retail sale of carpets, and their customers, had not been registered.

The question was, therefore, whether they had been absolute assignments of the debts, which would be valid against the liquidator, or charges on them.

There was no doubt that the block discounting agreement, which provided for Lloyds to make advances to Cyril Lord in respect of blocks of credit sale agreements, had been for the absolute assignment of the customers' debts to Lloyds. The liquidators contended that in the transactions carried out pursuant to the agreement there had been such substantial departures by the parties from

its terms that the true nature of the transactions had been to create charges on book debts and not their absolute assignment.

In particular the agreement had provided for 80 per cent of the value of the blocks of debts assigned to Lloyds, less a percentage for interest, to be paid to Cyril Lord at the times of the assignments, and a further 20 per cent, less any collection charges, to be paid to Cyril Lord when all the moneys due from the customers had been paid to Lloyds.

In practice, however, provided Cyril Lord had met all their banker's order payments to Lloyds in respect of the 80 per cent referable to a particular block assignment, that assignment had then been treated as completed; Cyril Lord had been allowed to retain the remaining 20 per cent of customers' payments for themselves and no further advance of 20 per cent had been made.

There was no question of the transactions having been a "sham", nor had the parties had any intention of creating a charge over book debts or merely making a series of loans. The fact that while all went well, the parties had not insisted on operating the transactions strictly according to the terms of the agreement,

which would in practice have been inconvenient, did not produce the effect that in law the terms which by the agreement had been specifically agreed to apply to the transactions were not relevant in defining the parties' legal rights and obligations. The assignments had in law been subject to the terms of the agreement, and they had been absolute assignments of the customers' debts and not merely charges on book debts.

An unfortunate question arose of stamp duty. Each of the block assignments should have been stamped with payment of the appropriate duty under the Stamp Acts. Not one had been. Even more regrettably, there had at least in some instances been an "adjustment" of the amounts of money involved in particular assignments so as to result in less duty being payable than if the correct amounts had been inserted.

Their Lordships had accepted an appropriate undertaking by Lloyds' solicitors, but if there should be similar cases hereafter of apparently deliberate disregard of the requirements of the Stamp Acts in transactions of this nature the court might find it necessary in its discretion to refuse to admit the unstamped documents in evidence.

LORD JUSTICE LAWTON, sitting with Lord Justice Megaw







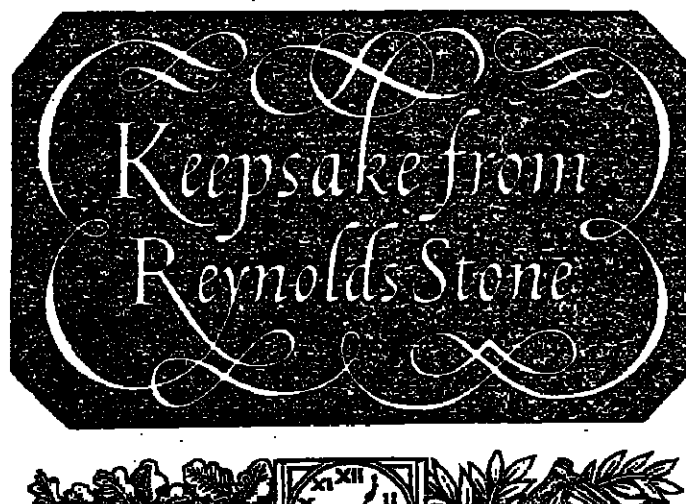
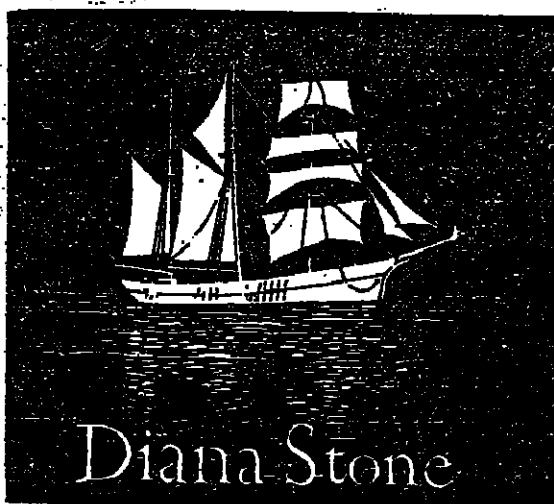








## NEW BOOKS/TWO



A Reynolds Stone frieze, showing the scope of his work. Above left: Royal Arms for the Coronation service of George VI. Compare the present royal arms (also a Stone design) on our Court Page, first used on April 23, 1953. Above right: Book label for his sister. Right: Device for the publisher Rupert Hart-Davis, used until recently by the Hart-Davis MacGibbon imprint of Granada Publishing. Far right, top: a typical example of Stone's work, often to be seen in letter-headings. Far right lower: compare this clock device used on the Leader Page of The Times between 1949 and 1966 with the present version of the clock numerals and scythe handles.

## Murder as social history

Victorian Murderesses  
By Mary S. Hartman  
(Robson Books, £5.25)

The more notorious of Victorian femmes fatales have a peculiar fascination for the connoisseurs of murder, perhaps because of the intriguing contrast between the respectable secret lives of their cluttered and claustrophobic sitting rooms and the fierce exposure of the dock. But the lurid Victorian pastiche, is misleading. This is no mere recital of old and familiar horrors but a well-written, carefully researched and penetrating study of 13 of the most infamous of nineteenth-century criminal women, British and French, seen against the legal, social and domestic constraints which drove them to the desperate expedient of murder.

Ms Hartman is Director of Women's Studies at Rutgers University in the United States and she perceives her subjects—they are hardly heroines—in the light of her own academic preoccupations. But this is no women's lib defence of murder. Ms Hartman neither romanticises murder nor presents the women as the stereotypical victims of male oppression. In more senses than one they had their weapons and knew how to use them. Given the socially pres-

cribed and idealized code of Victorian womanhood each sex was the victim of the other. The women may, indeed, have been said to have got off lightly. The guilt of none is seriously in question. Yet only six were convicted; five were freed before their full prison sentences were served; and none suffered the death penalty. Ms Hartman's account of the motives for their crimes, the stratagems they employed and the public response to their trials provides a fascinating combination of real-life murder, psychological detection and social history and new and original insights into the minds of the most celebrated murderesses of the nineteenth century.

It is both interesting and ironic that they killed not because they rejected the repressive sexual and social mores of the age but because they accepted them. They were conformists, not rebels. They shot, poisoned and stabbed, not in the cause of liberty, feminine emancipation or self-fulfilment, but of respectability. Madeline Smith may have had the audacity to indulge her sexual needs in an age when even to acknowledge female sexuality, at least in an unmarried girl, was a heresy against the purity of womanhood, but she took good care

to enjoy herself in secret— that, given the suffocating dullness of middle-class life in Glasgow, must have been half the fun—and she was just as aware as was her dear Mama of the relative matrimonial claims of a prosperous William Minnoch and a penniless Esau L'Angelier. So, since L'Angelier was so disapproving as not to take himself off in favour of a better prospect for his beloved Mimi, he was handed a mug of hot chocolate liberally laced with arsenic to teach him to behave like a gentleman. It was in the cause of respectability and snobbery that Madame Lemoine killed the newborn son of her daughter Angelina, who had been the mistress of her mother's coachman. It was not uncommon for upper-class young men to receive their sexual initiation from a servant; that a well-born young woman should do so was unthinkable. This, in the words of Jane Austen, was indeed the stain of illegitimacy unbleached by nobility or wealth. The unfortunate infant would have had a better chance of survival had he been the bastard of an aristocrat.

Charles Bravo, too, was murdered because of the imperiousness of bourgeois social respectability. Florence Bravo had accepted him because, her

wealth notwithstanding, public reputation depended on a break with her old lover, Dr Gully, and the acquisition of a suitable husband. When faced with the prospect of a life-time of his less than agreeable company and the certainty of annual and painful miscarriages she could see only one way out of her predicament. For a desperate and ruthless woman, murder was only too often the nineteenth-century equivalent of the contraceptive pill, the abortionist or the divorce court. These 13 women were bunglers. There must have been many others who managed more efficiently.

All the women were accomplished liars. The adjective is appropriate since, given their circumstances, deceit was a necessary survival technique. What is surprising is the credulity of their male judges and juries, only explainable, perhaps, by Ms Hartman's theory that the new institutionalizing of separate sexual spheres helped to make the female world a mysterious and alien place for the men who visited there. The respectable middle class women who flocked to notorious murder trials in numbers which the press openly deplored—the potent mixture of murder and adultery was a particular public attraction—must have watched

the gullibility of the men with fascinated incredulity. It is possible that the accused themselves believed their own lies. They may have been amateurs at murder but they were highly adept in the feminine art of romantic fabrication.

It is fashionable to indulge our self-righteous horror at the sexual and domestic hypocrisies of the Victorians. One suspects that our own hypocrisies, being on a meaner scale and unredeemed by their energy, optimism and creativity, provoke a certain envy. The proportion of happy marriages and loving parents is probably much the same in any age, and, whatever the currently fashionable tenets of sexual morality, men and women pursue to suit themselves in this most private of relationships. Happiness, after all, is less well documented than misery. But, undoubtedly, Victorian women, particularly those of the emerging middle class, were subjected to frustrations, boredom, tensions in domestic relationships, and the pressures of social change which, for some of the more vulnerable, proved intolerable. It was the tragedy of these thirteen women—and even more the tragedy of their victims—that the way out for them was so desperate, bloody and ultimately self-defeating.

P. D. James

## Good shepherd

Scenes from a Clerical Life: an autobiography by Alec Vidler (Collins, £4.50)

Although Alec Vidler is undeniably one of the most admirable and well-known C of E clergymen of our century, his autobiography might have been more correctly entitled "Scenes from a Clerical Life". Admittedly, he spent his first decade as a parson in a Tyneside slum and a Birmingham artisan parish, in that far-off heyday of the Anglo-Catholic Movement, when young Oxford bridge priests adorned mean streets in cassock and biretta, and did wonderful work.

But from the start Alec Vidler refused the isolation of what is usually "clerical life". He sought a community of like-minded priests with whom to share a rule of dedicated discipline, and found it in the Oratory of the Good Shepherd at Cambridge, whose Warden was Wilfred Knox. Henceforward the pattern of Vidler's life, wherever it took him, was in a community, more that of a "religious" than of a parochial cleric. For that reason, his special gifts of mind and spiritual wisdom were able to be used to the full, at the centre of the theological eddies and currents of thought which have carried the Church's intellectual life and fro throughout the war years and the succeeding decades.

His lot was to be in pleasant places, as Warden of St Denno's Library at Hawarden, then Canon of St George's, Windsor, and lastly Dean of King's, Cambridge. From these bases he practised (in his own metaphor) "theological midwifery", ie, assisted in the bringing into existence groups of thinkers and creative people, and in the promulgation of their ideas in books and papers while he himself also put out books of his own which won wide interest. He was, in fact, during those critical years, a man especially needed, and his influence as convener, catalyst, writer and lecturer within that province of Christian thinking was prodigious. For 27 years he edited *Theology* and played a considerable part in the work of the *Christian News-Letter* and its successor *Frontier*.

What sort of man is he? He lives in Rye in retirement in the house where he was born, a few miles from his life-long friends, Malcolm and Kitty Muggersidge. He is also a "wry" man, as every page of this book reveals. In his youth he was chided for a manner of "portentous solemnity" which he hopes he lost. Above all, a man of God with a great gift for making many friends, and few, if any, enemies.

Joseph McCulloch

Reviews next week include Michael Ratcliffe on Angus Wilson's *The Strange Ride of Rudyard Kipling*; Paul Barker on the Crossman diaries; Humphry Berkeley on A Prime Minister on Prime Ministers by Harold Wilson; R. R. F. Keating on Agatha Christie's autobiography.

Paul Johnson

## Reclassifications for trend setters

The Fontana Dictionary of Modern Thought  
Edited by Alan Bullock and Oliver Stallybrass  
(Fontana, £2.95; Collins, £7.95)

This, I should say, is a very smart piece of publishing business. Which of us, while browsing through, say, *The Times Literary Supplement*, has not been struck by a long, difficult, slightly familiar, plainly modern word, with strong academic overtones and hints of a newish "discipline", but of whose meaning we are not precisely sure, or rather—to be frank—are totally ignorant?

This was what happened to Lord Bullock—rather a trendy word himself, come to think of it—when he was on holiday, and baffled by "hermeneutics". He thereupon got the idea, "more or less fully formed", he says, for this dictionary of modern thought, "preferably" compendious enough to take with one even on holiday. Obviously the right publishers to go to were Collins-Fontana: for the Fontana Modern Masters series, slim, cheap, brilliantly conceived and edited, bright and up to date as yesterday's colour supplement, has already enabled hundreds of thousands, perhaps millions, of fairly educated and moderately intelligent people to profess an easy familiarity with such key modern opinion-shifters as Chomsky, Levi-Strauss, Lukacs, Laing, Marcuse, Reich and so forth.

The Fontana Dictionary of Modern Thought can be seen as a complement to the biographical series. It deals, as a rule very briefly, with such words

and concepts as binary system, extrapolation, deep structure, historicism, monads, continuum, entropy and enzymes. If you know exactly what these eight terms, taken at random, mean, then you have no need of this book. If, on the other hand, you feel you ought to know and don't, then a modest investment may be called for.

One must not expect too much. The dictionary does not so much increase knowledge as protect people from the social consequences of their ignorance (though it has the great merit of including brief biographies for more important items). In the attempt to cram an enormous amount into less than 700 pages, it sometimes slips into a statement of the obvious; or, alternatively, into unenlightening academic jargon. My eye, for instance, fell on "grammar". Not, some might imagine, a term necessarily associated with modern thought, but even I am fit enough to know it is part of the very fashionable subject of linguistics. So here we have Professor David Crystal, Professor of Linguistic Science, University of Reading, informing us that grammar is "A central concept in contemporary LINGUISTICS, traditionally referring to an independent LEVEL of linguistic organization in which words, or their component parts (MORPHEMES), are brought together in the formation of sentences or DISCOURSES. (See MORPHOLOGY; SYNTAX). . . . See also CASE GRAMMAR; SCALE-AND-CATEGORY GRAMMAR; SYSTEMIC GRAMMAR; TAGMATIC GRAMMAR; TRADITIONAL GRAMMAR. . . ."

cover that he spoke discourses instead of sentences! The use of capitals, by the way, means that these words also have an entry; and I should add that I followed this discussion of grammar and related concepts through the dictionary without becoming very much wiser or clearer, or even convinced that grammar as defined by "modern thought" is a significantly different or more useful term than the ordinary grammar developed to help people to write English. However, Professor Crystal at least puts me on to F. R. Palmer's *Grammar* (Penguin, 1971), which may do the trick if I ever get round to it.

Much the same criticism might apply to geography, another old-fashioned subject which is now dropped up in very gaudy academic garments, especially since it was taken up by the environmentalists, ecologists and other pseudo-scientific trend setters. It makes great play with such terms as URBANISATION, GEOGRAPHICAL DETERMINISM, CENTRAL PLACES, DIFFUSION GEOGRAPHY, and the use of mathematical MODELS. We are told by Jean Guzmann, Professor of Geography at Oxford, that "The role of psychological factors has been enhanced by growing interest in the decision making for location and environmental management (a new field called perception geography is being developed)". . . . Again, in the field of history, we learn about such new branches as ETHNOHISTORY, ICONOGRAPHY, PSYCHOHISTORY and also invention of old Namer's, today more fashionable than ever, called PRO-

SOGRAPHY, here defined as "the study of collective biography, usually but not necessarily the biography of ELITES such as peers or Members of Parliaments. It is a by-product of the explosion of higher education which took place in the sixties and early seventies. Academic research, I always say, expands according to the number of those the long-suffering public is prepared to pay to conduct it; and new branches, subjects and disciplines have to be invented to persuade us we are getting value for money. As a result, a man or woman who might have been considered superlatively well-educated 30 years ago is now made to feel shamefully out of touch by what amounts to little more than the reclassification of knowledge. However, one should not be snooty. This is a pioneering work, full of facts but also with many solid virtues. Some eminent and reliable scholars have contributed to it and they have, on the whole, been subjected to highly professional editing.

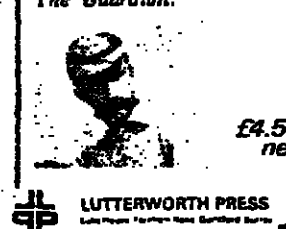
We have here essential reading for the Strangest of all people, if they have any sense. Being not as conscientious as Lord Bullock, I shall not take it with me on holiday; but I shall keep it on my reference shelf.

Paul Johnson

## My Dear Victorious Stod

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## Her own woman

The Passionate Shepherdess:  
Aphra Behn, 1640-1689  
By Maureen Duffy  
(Cape, £7.50)

A Victorian historian once accused the biographer of a Saxon saint of telling his readers "all, and rather more than all, that is known" about his subject. The thought must have occurred to Maureen Duffy, working on the biography of Mrs Aphra Behn, the seventeenth-century author—the first professional woman writer in this country—a fairly full account of the known facts about whom could sit happily on one side of a postcard.

Searching (and her tone occasionally seems to betray a certain amount of desperation) for a way with which to run up a few more bricks than those used by earlier biographers such as George Woodcock, Ms Duffy has done rather spectacularly well, partly by sheer hard work in searching, and partly by the intelligence of her inferences. She deals, for instance, very fully with all the possibilities of Mrs Behn's birth, and with the problem of the identity of Mr Behn (who, she concludes, may or may not have been a certain Richard Behn of Popinsey Alley, St Bride's, who fills the bill well enough). For the rest of her subject's life—her unromantic, unrewarding career as one of Charles II's spies in the Netherlands, and then her long literary career—what facts are available are filled out by fair guesswork supported by "evidence" from the plays and poems.

When one has to speak of "inference" and "guesswork" it is difficult not to give the impression of disapproval. In fact, the author steps over the tacky and uncertain ground with great confidence, inspiring confidence in the reader. She has uncovered a remarkable amount of information about the men and women who surrounded Mrs Behn—John Hoyle, for instance, the "atheist, sodomite, professed, corrupter of youth and blasphemer of Christ" (the words are Bulstrode Whitelock's).

Derek Parker

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NEWSWEEK

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Ronald Butt

# The significant rise of Mr Healey must put him top of the succession stakes

The miner's rejection of the offered productivity deal, and the heightened challenge of their £135 a week pay claim, do not only threaten the Government's economic and pay strategy just when its future seemed brighter.

The result of the ballot also provides a certain ironic justification for Mr Healey's resistance to revealing statistics to which he agreed with such obvious reluctance.

For the Chancellor's misgivings about a deeper pound were not only because of the effect this might have on export competitiveness, or on account of its possibly deflationary implications.

Until very recently, one of Mr Healey's chief reasons for holding the pound down was his fear that the Government's failure to get a phase three income policy might have wages consequences so damaging to overseas confidence as to lead to renewed pressures on the pound.

If this were to happen (so the argument ran) a cheap pound would be in a safer position than one that had been allowed to go up.

Well, we now have the danger of the complete collapse of the remnants of the Government's pay policy unless it stands firm (which would industrial consequences as anyone's guess at this stage) or unless the miner's leaders and the TUC can help it to fiddle a way out of this corner.

All this throws a new and a more kindly light on the failure of the Chancellor's rearguard action to prevent revaluation—though this does not mean that on more general grounds his hesitation about the sterling rate could any longer be justified. It plainly could not.

Everything now turns on the Government's firmness. Last week, after his Budget statement, Mr Healey was exhorted by a left-wing Labour backbencher, Mr Dennis

Skinner, to "keep its nose out" of free collective bargaining and, if it must use sanctions, to keep them to private firms. Mr Healey's reply was forthright.

"The Government," he said, "are determined to use their influence in the public sector as an employer, and in many cases as paymaster," as well as in the private sector where it would, if necessary, withhold discretionary grants and subsidies. It is this determination in the public sector that is now to be tested, and it remains to be seen whether the test will be to destruction.

These difficulties have suddenly erupted at the moment when Mr Callaghan seemed almost in charge of events, and just as Mr Healey had gained a new authority in Parliament which was likely to be of profound significance for the political future.

The moment most revealing of the Government's new self-confidence came during the questions which followed Mr Healey's Budget statement last week, when the ebullient Mr Pardo sprang to his feet to give his "unreserved welcome" to the Chancellor's announcements.

Mr Pardo thought the statement brought the Government "half-way to sanity" which would be a "matter of regret to the Conservative Opposition," and his special joy was reserved for the "astounding transformation" in the attitude of Whitehall towards the problems of small businesses in the last six months.

For it is, of course, part of the Liberal's claim to influence that the Government's new virtue in this matter (expressed through the activities of Mr Harold Lever) is due largely to them.

Mr Healey's response was to train on the hapless Mr Pardo the bludgeoning, remorseless heavy-

weight sarcasm which is part of his stock-in-trade. The Chancellor's broadside resembled nothing so much as a battleship blazing all its guns at a rowing boat.

"If anything were needed," he observed, "to complete my satisfaction on the improvement of the nation's economy, it is the knowledge on which I can now securely rest, that I have justified the trust of the hon member for Cornwall North." With his fixed cheeky-chappy grin too firmly in place, Mr Pardo looked as though he knew quite well what had hit him.

## The instinct is to wait until autumn

The hinge for the Chancellor's decision was, of course, the little word "now". For there had been no serious doubt, ever since the Lib-Lab pact was sealed, that the Liberals would keep the Government where it is, and no reassurance of confidence from Mr Pardo was needed to tell Mr Healey that he has had nothing to fear from the Liberals in the past, and has almost nothing to fear from them for the future.

Mr Callaghan's instinct is probably to wait until the autumn of 1978 (or even conceivably until 1979) but if the Liberals forced an election in the spring, before the signs of inflation re-emerged, that would suit him almost as well. For Mr Steel would then have given him an alibi for the earlier date.

Of course, if an early election were precipitated by the collapse of the Government's economic policy over pay, that would be quite a different matter. But this risk apart, ministers are conscious of the strength of their own hand, and Mr Healey's remarks to Mr Pardo were evidence of this. Yet there was more still to be read from the Chancellor's performance last week when, dealing with a flow of questions, he displayed an authority in the Commons that must be reckoned of some political significance.

Mr Healey's ability to master departmental nuts and bolts in the member of a highly polished senior civil servant is not new. He excelled at this during his six-year stay at the Ministry of Defence: he has now clearly reached the same sort of expertise at the Treasury. He has a machine mind and an appetite for work and detail which enable him to think very fast on his feet.

His own and his department's plain miscalculation in resting the revaluation of sterling to which he was then forced to suddenly does not seriously diminish his grasp of what he is doing, for it was at least based on a clear, intelligible earlier view of the situation to which I have already referred.

What is new in the last year is Mr Healey's rise to the House of Commons and that could be of real significance in terms of the eventual succession to the Labour leadership. After his poor showing in the post-Wilson leadership contest, and his confrontation with the Labour conference when he put the basic interest rate up to 15 per cent last year, few would have given much credence to Mr Healey's chances of being the next leader of his party.

Today, however, the nerve with which he has stood up to the test of

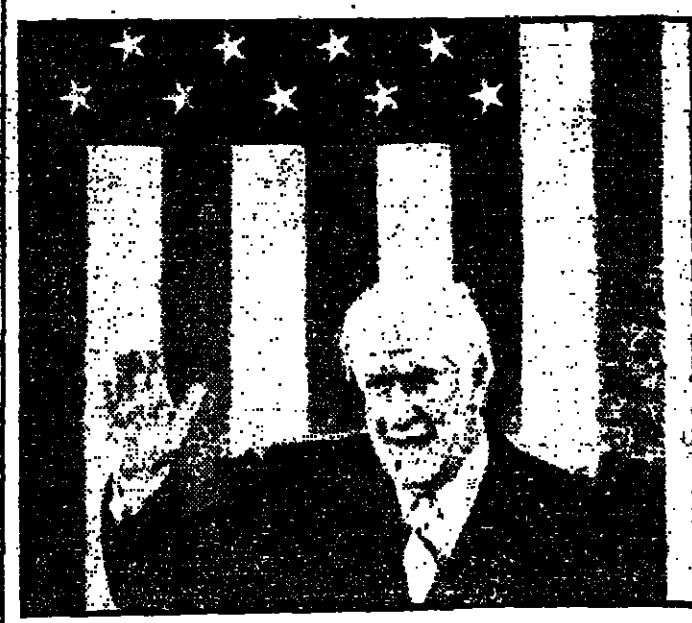
the past 12 months and the success, so far, of his policies put a different complexion on things. What is more, serious competition has faded away.

Mr Foot is no longer in it; Mrs Williams has failed to emerge as the leader of any significant section of the party and Mr Callaghan has, for the time being, tamed Mr Benn in a way Harold Wilson found impossible. Today, after Mr Callaghan, there is only Mr Healey.

The question now is what Mr Callaghan and Mr Healey will do with their success so far, and whether a wages explosion will undermine them before they reach the election. And if they were to reach the election and win, what would they do with a new lease of power once they had waved the Liberals goodbye?

There are people in the City now who seem contented to have a Labour Government implementing sound financial and economic policies which they fear would be politically unacceptable from the Tories, and there are ordinary citizens who feel the same. Yet at the election draws nearer, there will be a rising incentive for the electorate to look beyond polling day to see what sort of government Mr Callaghan will then, if he wins, be able to offer, and what the next phase of Labour's socialism will really amount to.

It is an old maxim that oppositions do not win elections; governments lose them. At the moment, the polls suggest that the present Opposition may not find it easy to win. But this does not mean that it is too late for the Government, Mr Healey's still notwithstanding, to lose it, and it is probably true to say that his succession to the leadership depends on Mr Callaghan's being able to hand it to him in power. In Opposition, it would be quite another matter.



Mr Tip O'Neill, Speaker of the House of Representatives: a man the President has learnt not to offend.

## Is President Carter wising up to the ways of Washington?

Washington

The word around Washington is that Jimmy Carter is the best-qualified President since Herbert Hoover. After all, Mr Carter, like Mr Hoover, is an engineer, a businessman, an intellectual, an experienced administrator, a man who knows all the questions and thinks he knows all the answers.

Another comparison is with John F. Kennedy. The two Presidents had terrible relations with Congress and with the business community, and the President's humility for was not notably successful until near the end, when he achieved the Test Ban Treaty.

Mr Carter has been President now for nine months, and he is in the midst of a period of sharp criticism. Since the Lance affair came into the open last August, he has done nothing right and the unforgiving critics are gleefully talking about a one-term presidency.

Now it is clearly much too early to write off Jimmy Carter. Last week the House of Representatives passed a Bill refinancing the social security system, and the senate has followed suit and is at last making some progress on the Energy Bill. There are signs that the President is bowing to criticism of his way of doing things, and above all, the vast numbers of the country, and its ability to sway events, remain intact.

The central criticism of the Carter presidency is that the President is not suspicious of strangers, that he is too sure of his own abilities and that therefore he tries to do everything himself. The best manager to reach the White House since Hoover is turning out to be a bad manager.

He is influenced, partly, by memories of the Nixon White House, in which business was organized with Teutonic efficiency by H. R. Helmsman and John Ehrlichman. Things are different today: Mr Carter sees far more people, reads far more papers and falls steadily behind in his work. He finally conceded last week that he was not a manager, or even a good one, which he has worked intensively, will not be ready until next year. It was promised for last June.

The President's most glaring failure so far has been his relations with Congress. He won the election as an outsider, promising to come to Washington to clean up the place.

It has taken him nine months, but he does seem to have learnt, at last, about the separation of powers. Congress is a separate and equal branch of the United States Government, and the President must win its support by persuasion and reason, not by issuing orders.

He learnt about the House of Representatives first. He found that the Speaker of the House, Mr Tip O'Neill, is a

man of consequence. His young George, thought it a joke when Mr O'Neill was offered at being given a seat in the back row at a gala inauguration concert. They no longer make that sort of mistake, and Mr O'Neill got the Energy Bill through with dispatch, and has just got the Social Security Bill through.

The Senate is even more prickly than the House and it required a longer and more difficult process to discover that its mandarins must be consulted at every turn. It was really not sensible to produce an Energy Bill, including detailed tax proposals, without consulting Senator Russell Long, chairman of the Finance Committee.

In much the same way, Mr Carter has learnt about foreign policy. He began his presidency by lecturing foreign governments, notably the Russians, on human rights. It became quickly apparent that although taking human rights seriously had some beneficial effects in other ways it was a disaster.

That disaster was not just a result of misunderstanding Russians. It was a result also of the President's strong sense of his own infallibility. Mr Carter examines problems with great thoroughness. He understands them, and when he has reflected on them, he produces a solution. It then becomes extremely difficult for him to grasp how anyone can disagree with so obviously correct a solution that he has produced after such long labour. He really believed that his own proposals were equitable, to both sides and was shocked when the Russians disagreed.

He is equally astonished that Israelis and their friends here do not agree with his proposals for the Middle East. He thinks the proposals are logical, fair, that they guarantee peace for everyone, and are thorough, thoroughly consistent with the highest principles. The Israelis do not like them one bit. Fortunately Mr Carter has never been so sure of his mind as the Irish question.

If the President, as some of his friends claim, is now changing his habits, is learning from his mistakes and from the frank and forceful comments of the city of Washington, he may yet turn into an outstanding President. He might solve the energy crisis, bring peace to the Middle East, balance the budget and add to the Federal Government.

If he has learnt from his past mistakes, he will have seven years in which to achieve all this. If not, he will probably have to rely on the traditional death-of-the-President myth to ensure his reelection.

Patrick Brogan

## Bernard Levin, the tapes, and the question of privacy

It was, I suppose, inevitable that Bernard Levin would comment on the issues raised by the resignation of Sir Richard Dobson. And it was just as inevitable that he would use the occasion to unleash a demagogic diatribe against his favourite enemy: the Marxist. In that sense his column in *The Times* (October 25), was predictable. The vulgar and philistinism contained in his attack was, however, somewhat unbalanced, even for a columnist with Levin's prejudices.

What were the central issues posed by the publication in *Socialist Challenge* of Sir Richard's speech? In our opinion they were racism and the corrupt and undemocratic structures of nationalized industries. In any event, the question of "privacy" was not central. Even if it had been, the statement by Sir Richard defending his speech should have removed it from the agenda.

There is at the present time a rising tide of racism in this country. The National Union of Journalists (to which both Levin and I belong) has recognized this fact by inserting an anti-racist clause in its Code of Conduct and pursuing an active policy against racism in the media. Was it, then, too much to hope that the Dobson speech would be used to wage a vigorous campaign against racism in British industry? To discuss both why it existed and how it was best fought? Does

one have to be a Marxist to realize that this is an urgent need?

I do not believe that only Marxists or socialists are hostile to racism. The general reaction of leader-writers and columnists in the national press could, however, have given one that impression. The question of racism was dismissed as being virtually irrelevant. Sir Richard was merely guilty of an "off-colour" joke! Bernard Levin himself attempted to put the nicest possible gloss on Sir Richard's offending words: "Of course Sir Richard did not intend a racial slur when he used the words complained of; he was speaking colloquially, lightly, as he thought privately..."

Perhaps Levin's thought processes could decipher what Sir Richard actually intended if not a "racial slur". And the defending his speech should have removed it from the agenda. There is at the present time a rising tide of racism in this country. The National Union of Journalists (to which both Levin and I belong) has recognized this fact by inserting an anti-racist clause in its Code of Conduct and pursuing an active policy against racism in the media. Was it, then, too much to hope that the Dobson speech would be used to wage a vigorous campaign against racism in British industry? To discuss both why it existed and how it was best fought? Does

attack on Mr Cooper and myself.

Of course when it comes to South Africa, Bernard Levin is fearless, but he remains generally silent on racism in Britain. His hatred of everything to the left of Roy Jenkins is obsession. The left is endlessly lambasted. The main chest of the fascists is: "If they're black, send them back. If they're red, shoot them dead." But even when Levin criticizes the fascists he is careful to state them with those whom they seek to victimize.

It is widely recognized (and not just in left-wing circles) that capitalist economic policies implemented by a Labour government have created an atmosphere of despair and demoralization among working people. Inflation and cuts in social expenditure have seen a real decline in living standards. Given the accompanying mass depopulation, the racist solution has gained some credibility. There are two million black people in this country. There are also nearly two million unemployed. The answer for simple minds is obvious. Get rid of the first and you will get rid of the second.

If Bernard Levin were to visit some of the more deprived areas of the Midlands, the north-east or London, he would be able to get a smell of Weimar in the air. The pace of polarization is remarkable. It is a depressing and, for most black people, a frightening period. To label those who are intervening in these areas to fight against racism as "fun-revolutionaries" or part of the "radical chic set" is simply grotesque. It is not fun to get threats against one's life or to see the homes of socialists attacked with fire-bombs. That

is why we argue that a broad and sharp campaign against racism is necessary on every front. That is why Peter Cooper finally decided to give us the tape. It was not an easy choice for Peter, despite all Levin's sneers, but it was a necessary and courageous one.

But public-schools law no bounds. And Bernard Levin is the Prince of Hypocrisy. Where was "privacy" when the entire national press was "exposing" Tony Kelly for daring to say that Reg Prentice was a Tory who should not be re-elected as the Labour candidate for Newham North-east?

Levin, who effects a concern for all things democratic, has still to wage a campaign to demand the resignation of Reg Prentice in order that the citizenry of Newham North-east are not deprived of their democratic rights. Instead those fighting for more democracy on every level are consistently attacked, not least in Levin's own union's London Free Press Branch, where our democratic columnist drafted and proposed a Draconian, 10-part set of standing orders which would have ended debate and placed all power in the hands of his right-wing colleagues on the branch committee.

Peter Cooper taped a speech made by a prominent industrialist at a club which announced him on the menu as the main speaker. He gave *Socialist Challenge* that speech after debating with his conscience for a week. Levin disputes this fact. Why? Because in his world all Marxists are demons and monsters. They have no soul, no humanity, no culture, no sense of humour. What travesty!

Mr Cooper hesitated precisely because of his relationship with his parents. It was the

racist content of the speech which finally clinched the matter. He was right. He deserves 10 marks out of 10 for initiative and courage. Mr Levin refers to this as "weedy treachery". What he thinks of the fact that not a single Labour member of the Club has dissociated himself from the Club's "sincere apology" to Sir Richard Dobson is not known. Presumably that is because Levin is coming from a columnist who defended Nixon during the early stages of Watergate, I suppose we shouldn't be too surprised.

Levin's personal attacks on Peter Cooper and me are both scurrilous and untrue. They reveal more of the political psychology of their author than all his high-sounding phrases and moral posturing. What is, however, far greater than his lies is his consistent and consistent denigration and caricaturing of Marxism.

In his carefully cultivated ignorance, Levin descends to the level of the philistines whom he professes to despise so much. He writes that Peter Cooper (and by implication all Marxists) would regard Shakespeare as "a capitalist lackey and fascist lick-spittle". But which Marxists use such language about anyone, not to mention geniuses like Shakespeare or Mozart? We certainly don't!

In fact, Levin knows perfectly well that I am a Trotskyist. He should know that one of the merits of Trotsky lay precisely in the fact that he refused to be lost to the Euro-Communist debate and try to keep his "immeasurable neurotic dread" of Marxism within bounds.

Tariq Ali

The author is editor of *Socialist Challenge*.

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## The facts and the fiction on Paul Scott

If the novelist Paul Scott wins this year's £5,000 Booker Prize, Britain's largest award for fiction, and it will be criminal if he does not, it is unlikely that he will attend the prizegiving dinner at Claridges on November 23.

Mr Scott, who is 56, went to the United States in July, as a visiting lecturer at the University of Tulsa in Oklahoma. Last month, he was taken seriously ill and rushed to St Francis Hospital where he is now recovering from a major operation.

His competition on this year's Booker shortlist indicates that it has not been a quiet year for British fiction. It is hard to imagine the judges choosing Paul Barlow, Caroline Blackwood, Jennifer Johnston, Penelope Lively or Barbara Pym in preference to Mr Scott. His novel, *Staying On*, which he doesn't like, has been named in India after partition, was greeted with universal enthusiasm by the critics on its publication in March.

The award would be pecuniary recognition for Mr Scott not before time. He has published 13 novels, but although highly praised, particularly for his four novels known as *The Raj Quartet*, he has never reached the best-seller lists.

Bargain of the week, as advertised in the *Wisbech Standard*: "Pony's saddle 16in. complete with bridle, £36."

## His master's voice, on TV

I was going to begin this item with a dissertation on Tiger Tim who, at the age of 40 knows, once again, the multi-hued paces of his own weekly comic.

Instead, I yield pride of place to Snoopy, an animal of more recent times who, as everyone over the age of six knows, graces a cartoon strip called *Peanuts*.

The reason I give precedence to the doleful beagle in Charles Schulz's wise and wonderful cartoon is that yesterday I attended a preview of a BBC TV film in which Mr Schulz speaks in a rare interview. He prefers to let his creations, Snoopy, Charlie Brown et al, speak for him.

It comes as no surprise to learn that Mr Schulz is a deeply religious man, though no formal Christian. God does not like being worshipped, he thinks; He would rather see man loving his fellow man. In a word, the Snoopy and Charlie Brown ethos.

Much nonsense is talked by highbrows about the cosmic philosophy underlying *Peanuts*. I just don't see what everyday problems," says Mr Schulz. "Tolstoy dealt with the main ones."

The film goes out on BBC 1, Sunday night, 10.25 pm. As for Tiger Tim, a superbly coloured facsimile of his August 8, 1931, adventures appears in a bumper comic collection—16 different comics in all—published by W. Howard Baker at 58.

Mr Cooper hesitated precisely because of his relationship with his parents. It was the

## THE TIMES DIARY/ PHS

### Getting back in the Euro-swing

Those of you who miss the presence of Lord George Brown in domestic politics will be glad to learn that (while he may be a bit out of the Labour Party) he is certainly not lost to the European cause. Indeed, he is taking his future in Europe quite as seriously as that other Euro-Socialist, Willy Brandt. Both delegates to the Parliament are in their respective domestic settings, but the European ideal remains close to their hearts.

To wit, Lord George (as I like to call him) for the first time since his departure from Westminster is to throw himself into the melting pot of the European Assembly when he attends the plenary session in Strasbourg in two weeks' time.

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### Only just in busy control

Computer men have their own special language, so I was not amazed by the reply I got when I asked one of them what they did when there is a power cut.

We have the lines system. But what did it mean? "To quiesce the system," apparently means gradually to reduce the load on the computer. "By using out the lines," consists of "fixing" the telephone line terminal so that customers needing a direct link with the computer receive a signal indicating that the computer is fully occupied.

I am assured that a sudden, unexpected break in electricity supply can cause a lot of trouble, so the computer centres are buzzing with nervous operators anxiously watching their control panels.

Overheard on the Gatwick airport public address system: "Would Mr Francis Drake, passenger to the USA, please come to the airport information desk."

"I hope the press aren't here," said Joyce Grenfell, yesterday, looking anxiously over her speech. "What was the point of me saying that we were going to misinterpret it? It was a question she thought small was beautiful because it took longer to get money in an American bank than a British. She was proposing the adoption of the accounts of the Artists' General Benevolent Institution annual meeting. What worried her was that the last time she made world news was when she told a *Woman of the Year* that it was nice to be a woman to remove certain unsatisfactory elements at the end of the day. It fixed round the globe under the headline: 'A Happiness is taking off your girdle.'"

Then there was Arthur Scargill on television saying that the miners did not bring down the Heath Administration. "They brought themselves down," he said. "With such impeccable logic, how can we deny the miners a paltry £135 per week?"

Have you been experiencing a wonderful sense of deja vu? You know, staying in cold water by the light of a flickering candle while the power workers "go slow" and the miners threaten to bring the Government (and the country) to its knees? I have. It is, if you recall, exactly like the winter of 1973.

Only then, the anti-Heath press carried stories of elderly spinsters, getting stuck in lift shafts and having to be saved by rough mechanics. Now the press reports no such disasters, even though (as I drove to the office yesterday morning, every traffic light between home and NBSB was stuck at red (what an appropriate colour).



# NORTHERN IRELAND

a Special Report

After more than eight almost continuous years of terrorism, the political problems of Northern Ireland remain stubbornly unsolved. But in recent months a new optimism has been discernible in the tone of ministerial speeches and less of the normal despondency and tension has been visible among ordinary citizens.

This is largely the result of a weakening in the Provisional IRA and a marked reduction in the violent activities of the so-called "Protestant" paramilitary groups.

Official statistics show that in the first nine months of this year, 100 people met violent deaths compared with 232 during the same period last year.

The detailed records of terrorist violence accurately reflect the more relaxed atmosphere now to be encountered at most levels of Northern Ireland society. The hopefulness is cautious in the extreme, heavily hedged about with clauses and conditions, but it is there all the same.

The only violent activity on the increase is "kneecapping". This savage form of punishment is practised with grisly enthusiasm by extremists on both sides of the sectarian divide. But internal divisions within the IRA are regarded by detectives as the main reason why this year's total already exceeds 100—with many of the victims maimed for life.

For most of the 1,500,000 inhabitants of the province, the improvement has brought more immediate and tangible benefits than those which would arise from a sudden bout of political progress. The lack of amenities still poses great problems and magnifies the other hardships imposed by guerrilla warfare, but in recent months there has been evidence that the drop in killing has encouraged more ordinary social activity.

Unfortunately, in more areas this is restricted within one or other of the two religious communities, with only the professional classes bridging the tragic gap between "Catholics and Protestants" on any regular basis.

From the Government's point of view, two events during the year are singled out as contributing most to the reduction in violence—which was most noticeable in August, traditionally the bloodiest month in Northern Ireland.

The first was the defeat of the loyalist strike last

May, leading to humiliation for its extremist leaders, and a considerable boost for the Royal Ulster Constabulary.

The second, balancing factor was the failure of the Provisional IRA to live up to its extravagant threats to wreck the Queen's Jubilee trip to the most violent corner of her realm. After issuing inflammatory warnings about their plans to make the visit "a day to remember", the Provisionals found themselves unable to wreck the promised havoc.

The result was a considerable loss of face for the leadership, and a strengthening of the hand of the so-called "doves" within the ranks, men who are pressing for the eight year campaign of violence to be abandoned.

Mr Roy Mason, the Secretary of State, was quick to make capital from both events. An ex-coal miner who is the fourth minister to fill one of the Cabinet's most testing posts, Mr Mason has managed to convince Protestants that Britain is not planning a sudden withdrawal. This was a considerable achievement, helped by a blunt, no-nonsense approach which contrasted sharply with the more ambivalent posture of his immediate predecessor, Mr Merlyn Rees.

On arriving at Stormont in September 1976 Mr Mason pledged himself to improve the working of direct rule and to avoid plunging into what he called "disastrously" "political whirling". In the eyes of several local politicians, and the more restrained dissent of both the Conservative Party and the new Dublin Government, it proved a promise which was largely adhered to.

Talks with Roman Catholic and Protestant leaders did eventually take place, and more are now planned, but it is generally accepted that agreement is further away than it was when the consi-

by Ronald Kershaw

It is a little over a year ago that Mr Roy Mason, the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, in the absence of any marked progress towards a solution to the province's problems, launched an attack on the economic ills of the region. His reasoning was that poverty, unemployment and frustration at the hopelessness of the future provided a breeding ground for violence.

The creation of a better quality of life, he argued, would gradually bring about the realization that life was worth living and passive acceptance of terrorism would turn to revulsion at the killings and bombings. The great majority of peaceable people in Northern Ireland would be moved to cooperate actively in the elimination of the gangster.

To fight to keep what you have implies you must have something in the first place and to work for peace and employment means you must have jobs. Accordingly, the Northern Ireland administration launched a "high-powered" campaign to attract new investment, to reduce what Mr Mason has called the "unemployment mountain" and generally create a worthwhile future.

Government ministers and officials are now in the middle of their drive to create and extend industry and subsidy is more aware than they of the magnitude of the task. The mountain of unemployment is now running at 11.6 per cent—nearly twice as high as in Britain. Last year more than 75 companies closed down their Northern Ireland operations. Production costs have risen faster than in Britain and the political problems have contributed, though not significantly, to the decline in jobs.

Dr George Quigley, who last month accompanied Mr Mason on an investment promotion tour of the United States, in a searching report on Northern Ireland's economy published last November, forecast that by 1980 a further 25,000 jobs would be lost to the pro-

vince. Nobody has yet found reason to doubt his judgment so the task facing the Northern Ireland administration is to attract sufficient industry, first to stop the decline then to create new jobs.

To aid this process, Mr Mason has appointed a new Northern Ireland Economic Council under the chairmanship of Professor C. F. Carter, Vice-Chancellor of Lancaster University and formerly Professor of Applied Economics at Queen's University, Belfast.

Unlike trade missions which tend to show results quickly in terms of orders, investment-seeking missions such as the American one led by Mr Mason and Mr Don Concannon, deputy Secretary of State, tend to take time to pay off.

A bonus was the announcement by Du Pont, America's biggest chemical company in the middle of Mr Mason's October tour, that it intended going ahead with a £29m modernization programme at its neoprene synthetic rubber plant at Maydown, Londonderry.

Du Pont officials made it clear that without the modernization 450 jobs at the existing plant would be lost. As a result there may be a slight increase in jobs. For two years 800 to 1,000 construction workers will be employed on the plant. The only casualty will be the neighbouring British Oxygen Company factory which has been supplying the neoprene plant with acetylene. The modernized Du Pont plant will be based on a new process using cheaper raw materials but about 250 BOC people will be laid off unless alternative work can be found.

Northern Ireland's investment record in the past year or so is impressive. The Ford Motor Company has provided 400 jobs in a £10m expansion scheme; Berkshire International, a Londonderry textile firm, 300 jobs in a £1,600,000 investment; Synthetic Industries, Incorporated, at Newry, 170 jobs with £5m investment; and Galloway's has invested £8m. The Synthetic Industries project was the first United States new investment in Northern Ireland

## Investment as a means to peace

since 1969 but the emphasis is on "new". There has been American investment in the province of about £120m by 32 companies up to May 1976 and more recent investment decisions involve £58m and 1,200 new jobs.

Even so, at the first meeting of the new economic council recently, Mr Mason, with the bluntness for which he is noted, told the council: "The supply of new jobs has not kept pace with rising job demands. There has not, however, been a sharp fall in employment and the long-term trend remains one of expansion". He explained that the total working was 493,000, a marginal reduction since 1974 but an increase of 10 per cent over 1960.

Even so, he made it clear that the job of the council was to assist the Government in holding on to existing jobs and giving aid to companies in short to medium-term difficulties. The Government, he said, wanted to make sure that the value of Northern Ireland's one real natural resource—man-power—was enhanced by a rising level of skills and to establish a sound basis for competitive industry.

Mr Mason went to some pains to emphasize that the marginal increase in unemployment had not been caused by a loss of jobs but by an increase in people coming on to the labour market. It was important that outside investors be aware of this, he said.

Probably the most significant contribution to the fight for industry was the £1,000m economic package announced by the Secretary of State at the beginning of August, of which the new council was part. The essence of the new deal included writing off £250m of the £269m debt of the Northern Ireland Electricity Service to the Government Loan Fund, and over the next five years providing £100m in grants to the electricity service. Electricity charges to Northern Ireland consumers were staying between 30 per cent and 70 per cent greater than in Britain. Direct subsidies have been ruled out of electricity charges but there is little doubt that the measures will mean significant price reduc-



Work on the Short Brothers SD 3-30 airliner, two of which were recently ordered by a United States airline.

tions for industrial and commercial users at least.

The package contained an increase from 40 per cent to 50 per cent of the maximum rate of government grants for industry setting up in areas of high unemployment where unemployment rates as high as 30 per cent occur. In areas not qualifying for maximum rates where grants are proportionately lower, they too have been raised by 10 per cent. A grant aid scheme to encourage research and development of new processes and products with an upper limit of £250,000 for each project will, it is hoped, bring new technology. Rent abatement schemes for companies using government-built premises have been extended from three years to five years.

The construction industry is to be given a £2,750,000 investment boost to counter rising unemployment. In total about £100m this year and £600m over the following five years will be served for expansion and capital grants which, with

the electricity bonus, makes up the package. As an incentive to incoming industrialists and expanding existing industries it cannot be bettered in the United Kingdom. It means that in the worst unemployment areas an employer can have up to 50 per cent of the cost of buildings and plant met by the Government and no matter where he goes in Northern Ireland he will be able to get up to 40 per cent. Industrialists have up to the end of March, 1980, to have their projects approved.

It is perhaps fitting that Northern Ireland with the highest level of unemployment in the United Kingdom has the highest rates of government aid and, while it has the worst level of unemployment, it has the best industrial relations record. Political commentators may read what they will into that. For good measure it should be said that last year the number of working days lost through industrial disputes totalled 45,052 compared with 245,735 in the previous year—a drop of 82 per cent.

Disaster could easily have overtaken the province earlier this year when "loyalist" extremists called for an all-out strike in support of a demand for firmer measures against the Provisional IRA and an end to direct rule from Westminster. The wholehearted rejection by the majority of trade unionists may well, in hindsight, be regarded as the turning point in the economy of the province. It was led by about 9,000 workers at the Belfast shipyard of Harland and Wolff, almost the

continued on next page

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**Northern Bank**



## Call from the minister: hard facts will win over myths



The attractions of Northern Ireland as a base for manufacturing industry are now so great that investors both in Britain and overseas owe it to themselves and their shareholders to examine them in detail before coming to a decision on the location of new outlets.

That is the message my ministers and I are seeking to carry around the world as we continue the drive to place the Northern Ireland economy on a much sounder footing.

It is a message some cynics may say is rather optimistic, bearing in mind our problems of the past few years. I take a more positive view, as I did on my

recent tour of North America.

I do so because industrialists decide for investment or against it on the basis of hard facts and figures and it is in these rather than in myths and half-truths that we in Northern Ireland like to deal.

We can point to the fact that since the Second World War more than 300 companies from Britain and overseas, employing more than 50,000 people, have been attracted to the province and that their story has been one of remarkable success. Thirty of these are American companies, which represent some £400m of investment at 1976 prices. They have on their payroll 18,000 workers.

We can point to the fact that in recent times many of these companies have increased substantially their investments in the province. They have shown their confidence in Northern Ireland by increasing their stake in the past year to the tune of £29m, and in recent weeks we have been given a further tremendous boost by the decision of the Du Pont company to invest £25m in modernizing its plant in Londonderry.

We can point to our excellent record of economic activity. Since 1969 our manufacturing output has risen by 14 per cent, compared with the overall figure for the United Kingdom of 4 per cent. In the same period our productivity rose by 37 per cent as against 30 per cent in the

United Kingdom as a whole. And on the industrial relations front Northern Ireland's record since 1969 has been better than that of the United States, the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland.

In addition to a first-rate industrial track record we can offer potential investors a package of inducements to set up in the province which can hold its own with those offered by industrial areas anywhere. An industrialist setting up in one of our areas of high unemployment can now receive tax-free grants of 50 per cent on his building and machinery costs.

Grants are but one element in a vast package which seeks to smooth the way for the industrialist.

If, for example, a customer needs labour training of a particular sort we can meet his precise needs. If he requires a factory we can provide it, either off the peg or tailored to his requirements.

Government departments take pride in the flexibility of our industrial development programme. It can be used in a host of ways to get a new factory quickly and efficiently into production.

The picture of Northern Ireland that has gone wrong in the world in recent years is of a place in shambles. Those who visit the province know that to be a totally false picture. Throughout the troubles we have lost only 824 manufacturing jobs through the closure of companies as a direct result of terrorist action. There is

no denying that Northern Ireland faces major political problems, but I wish to emphasize that in no way impair security of investment.

There is growing in Northern Ireland now a new feeling of confidence. The security forces have been moving forward steadily in their fight against terrorism. Their success rate is improving all the time and life is becoming very tough indeed for the remaining gunmen and bombers. We still have the occasional act of violence, but overall the picture is vastly improved.

I have made it clear that there is no acceptable level of violence in Northern Ireland. I am determined to restore normality to the province and at the same time to work vigorously towards a sound economic and industrial structure. An unemployment rate of 11.6 per cent is not to be tolerated.

We have geared ourselves to move forward very quickly when the economic upswing in America and elsewhere gains full momentum. The past year has brought many advances in our drive to establish a peaceful and viable future for Northern Ireland.

I am very hopeful that as our image abroad improves and as our true value as a base for profitable investment emerges the coming year will see us take much greater strides along the road of progress.

Roy Mason

## Ill wind has promoted growth

by Robert Rodwell

It is no argument for a continuation of the unrest but peace tomorrow in Northern Ireland would put a substantial number of people out of work. "Security" in the widest sense has been one of the province's few growth industries in this decade.

The lifting of the threat to cease forthwith the tedious and largely ineffective frisking of shoppers and other people about their daily pursuits would result in several thousand people losing their livelihoods.

The civilian security "industry" is comprised of three main sectors—security guards and body searchers employed directly by industrial and commercial firms; the uniformed Civilian Search Unit which is an auxiliary of the Northern Ireland Police Authority and private security companies.

In addition to these there has also been a marked growth in the number of companies selling, installing and servicing various security intruder and fire alarm systems, closed-circuit television surveillance and fireproof safes.

Apart from the wholly civilian sectors of security there are two others in which thousands of civilians participate part-time and supplement their income from other jobs—the 4,600-strong Royal Ulster Constabulary Reserve and the 7,800-strong Ulster Defence Regiment, of which 6,000 members are part-timers.

The RUCR would be nothing like as large if political and civil unrest did not exist and the UDR would not exist at all. Adding all these sectors together, at least 20,000 civilians are seen to earn their living either wholly or

partly from some aspect of security.

The Government pays grants towards the employment of several thousand security officers in addition to the staff it employs directly in the Civilian Search Unit, the RUC Reserve and the UDR. Manufacturers, wholesalers, retailers, hoteliers and car rental agencies are employing 10 or more people each to apply for Department of Commerce grants towards the wages of their security staff.

Now costing about £4.5m a year, the grant scheme covers 3,000 security officers directly employed by about 1,300 firms. Operations since 1974, the grants were increased in time in step with inflation.

Eligible applicants receive 75 per cent of the wages of each security officer up to a maximum of £1,550 a person a year, on the rate of one security officer for every 100 or part-100 employees up to a maximum of five. Extra security staff above this scale command a grant of £1,150 a person a year.

Government spokesmen say that grants are paid only for "approved" staff and applications have to be certified by the RUC's crime prevention officers, through whom some training is available.

For all that, the impression carried away by most people who have experienced the dreary frustration of shopping in the centre of Belfast or Derry is that many shop-door friskers are, in fact, bored pensioners or housewives doing a spare-time job and their services in preventing the planting of small incendiary timebombs—the main threat to commercial property—is almost nil. Because of the recently increased firebomb threat, the Commerce Department has recently split its security

grant scheme into separate

entireties for some enterprises at particular risk, such as department stores which have both a daytime security requirement on the doors, and a night-patrol fire-watching need. Separate grants are now available for night-watchers but—unlike stores, offices and warehouses—places of entertainment, surprisingly, do not qualify for grant. This omission has been spotlighted in recent weeks by the overnight firebomb destruction of damage of several of Ulster's remaining cinemas including the largest, the ABC in the centre of Belfast.

The CSU's 460 uniformed men and women man a day-and-night perimeter around the main shopping centres of Belfast and Derry, frisking shoppers and commuters and searching their bags at permanent checkpoints and searching the few vehicles which, on special permits, are allowed inside the high security zones. CSU staff also search incoming cargoes at the docks and the entire force is said to relieve soldiers and police of security duties, so permitting their use in more active anti-terrorist roles.

If the CSU city centre searches have ever found anything it has escaped public record and the entire security structure in central Belfast is under heavy fire from traders led by the Chamber of Trade President Mr Gordon Smyth, a prominent Belfast retailer. He describes the heavy security presence, including the Army's heavily fortified battalion headquarters, and rifle-armed patrols, in Royal Avenue as a disastrous disincentive to out-of-town shoppers entering Belfast and thus hastening the commercial decline of the city.

While supporting the

virtual "pedestrianisation" of the city centre—which is desirable for environmental reasons anyway—and vehicle searches as effective counter-measures to the car bomb, Mr Smyth wants the pedestrian checkpoints and shop-door searches to be dropped as useless. His views are gaining increasing support with the realization that everything necessary to make a small incendiary timebomb can be purchased inside one store and assembled in the nearest lavatory.

Eight years of violence has led to rapid growth in private security companies and 18 are listed in Ulster's Yellow Pages. Many of the newcomers are under-capitalized, unproved one-man outfits, according to Mr Bill Wray, regional secretary of the Industrial Police and Security Association and the proprietor of one of the largest and oldest security firms. Together, the private companies employ about 2,000 but no collective figure of their turnover is available. Eligible clients can obtain government grants of up to 50 per cent of the costs of using them and many traders, particularly hoteliers, prefer to use security contractors rather than hiring their own staff.

Although it has created a boom for them, the emergency is full of hazards, for the security firms, according to Mr Wray. "We have to watch very carefully the kind of clients we take, or not take on too much work resulting simply from the troubles. If we did so, we could be left with very little indeed when the troubles cease for we would lose shops, shopping arcades and hotels overnight."

by Peter Godfrey

Old Bushmills is Northern Ireland's only distillery—and the world's oldest. Transformed from the cottage industry which was granted a distilling licence by James I in 1608, it now produces a million gallons of whiskey a year, two thirds of it for export.

Irish whiskey—the "e" distinguishes it from Scotch—has a long tradition. Peter the Great is said to have pronounced soberly after a "Bash" of Europe: "Of all beverages, the Irish is the best." In 1612, the Lord Mayor of London, Sir William Cockayne, had to part with some property to pay for his imports of Bushmills.

Earlier still, a Norman army captain campaigning in north Antrim gave each of his men "a mighty draught of usquebaugh" (the Gaelic word from which whiskey originates), a predilection which is reputedly scarcely to have diminished since among the Irish.

Old Bushmills preserves its historical distilling techniques, but has recently spent £3m on modernizing and expanding its distillery at Bushmills, and a distillation plant at near by Coleraine.

The whiskey is exported to 62 countries. The two distilleries produce different blends of whiskey: Coleraine is predominantly grain-based, while Old Bushmills is a predominantly malt blend. Both are blends of a single malt and single grain, ensuring a consistency of flavor which is purified by the company's "triple still" method. Old Bushmills even employs its own

coopers to look after and

restore its whiskey casks. Old Bushmills stands in tranquil surroundings, drawing its water from St Columba's Rill, a tributary of the river Bush, which runs past it. The distillery is set in a village of 1,200 inhabitants, in a high, quiet, clock-reminiscent of a traditional Irish round tower.

Only three miles away is the Giant's Causeway and unspoiled beauty of the north Antrim coast. It is unusual, largely through lack of tourist development: surprisingly few visitors venture to the causeway, a geological formation so remarkable that its hexagonal "organ pipes" were once thought to have been carved by man.

While the dearth of tourists may enhance the countryside, it does little to promote local products. The distillery sends to markets a large influx of people into Northern Ireland, we would sell a lot more whiskey here and benefit from a massive spin-off.

Mr Bill McCourt, managing director of Old Bushmills, said, Mr McCourt shares a view held by many industrialists in Northern Ireland that the media's preoccupation with the sectarian troubles overlooks substantial productive efforts being made.

Old Bushmills, owned for many years by the Boyd family, was once known as a "Protestant" whiskey. Although it no longer has any such connotations in Ireland, there are still one or two bars in New York which refuse to stock it.

The Boyds sold out in the late 1960s to Sir Isaac Newton, and the distillery was subsequently bought by Bass Charrington. It did not

seem to fit into the scheme of things at the large brewery group, however, and is now owned by a consortium in which Seagram, an American distilling company, has a large minority shareholding. Old Bushmills is part of the Irish Distillers' Group, a quoted public company which incorporates major whiskey manufacturers in the republic.

Old Bushmills retains a large amount of autonomy, and has developed a high-

protein animal food additive,

a by-product of the distilling process, which is proving lucrative. It is the only producer of such animal feed in Northern Ireland. On the international spirits market, Irish whiskey has held to contend with the pre-eminence of Scotch, but is making up ground, partly through the popularity of such drinks as Irish coffee (allegedly the invention of an enterprising barman at Shannon airport). The marketing strategy of Old Bush-

mills is primarily aimed

overseas, particularly at the United States. Until recently, the industrial side effects of political upheavals in Northern Ireland have told on Old Bushmills distillery, as on other local companies. But Irish whiskey is beginning to gain some of the international recognition long accorded to Scotch. "The potential is there," Mr McCourt said. "Business is good, and but for the troubles it would be booming."



The still room at Old Bushmills distillery, one of the world's oldest.

## Investment as a means to peace

continued from previous page

entire workforce, who only a few days earlier had been told that the shipyard had won a £70m order for two liquefied petroleum gas carriers—the first new order for the firm since 1974.

This was the year a strike similar to the one abortively called for this year brought the province to its knees. If ever Mr Mason needed justification for his theory that people would fight to retain their jobs it was to be found in this rejection of strike action.

He told shipyard workers: "Your future is in your own hands. Safeguard it." They did it, men for two years. Small wonder they defied the

strike-makers. Since then the

shipyard has won another order for a £12.5m ferry vessel for the Larne-Stranraer route of British Rail, products which Northern Ireland sends to markets outside the United Kingdom. Airfreighters of Bangor and the Rotary Group of Belfast, have won orders worth a total of £4.6m. In fact, as Mr Concanon pointed out recently, Northern Ireland has a great deal to offer the offshore oil business.

Five years ago there were only seven companies involved in the industry. Now there are almost 60 in oil-related developments. "We have shown the offshore business that Northern Ireland can not only produce good goods, but that we can deliver them at a time and at a price that is fully competitive."

Mr Concanon

said. This view appears to be shared by many customers. The total value of Northern Ireland's exports, which has been increasing in recent years and is now running at £1,450m a year. Contributing greatly to export achievement is the Belfast firm of Short Brothers which last year celebrated 75 years in the aerospace industry. A few weeks ago it announced an order for two Short SD 3-30 aircraft for a big United States commuter airline. Mary Henson Aviation of Maryport, to be delivered this month and January with options on two further aircraft for delivery in late 1978 and early 1979. This

development raises the total number of firm sales to 12 with a further five aircraft on option to airlines in North America and Germany. The company which has received awards from both Boeing and Lockheed for high quality and prompt delivery of components, makes aircraft, aerostructures—major components for aircraft of other manufacturers—and missiles, notably close-range guided weapon systems.

The company employs more than 6,000 people and no doubt this influenced the Government's role in its financial restructuring. As Dr P. F. Foreman, the managing director recently pointed out, it was long overdue. Short's authorized share capital had remained unchanged at £2.5m since 1947. Lack of capital meant borrowing to finance major projects and that meant heavy interest charges.

The Northern Ireland Department of Commerce was subscribed four million new £1 shares. The shares capital has increased to £19.31m of which 61.45 per cent is held by the Department of Commerce, 33.85 per cent by the Department of Industry at Westminster and the remainder divided equally between Harland and Wolff and the Receiver of the old Rolls-Royce company. The company has an impressive export record and it is expected that the new financial footing it now enjoys will encourage steady expansion of business and workforce. That is what government initiatives are all about.

Short Brothers is anxiously watching developments in the sale of the Fairey Aircraft manufacturing business. It is interested in buying some equipment used in making the Islander and the Trislander aircraft of the former British-Norman Company, which has acquired in 1972.

The author is Northern Industrial Correspondent, "The Times".

## Freedom of action behind success

by Ronald Kershaw

To the Northern Irish one of the most perplexing riddles must be how a body with a modicum of industrial or commercial enterprise, after examining the varied array of grants, loans, rebates, employment premiums and the like, can possibly afford to stay out of Northern Ireland. To the outsider the wonder is why anybody with any ability in industry or commerce, after examining the benefits offered by the Northern Ireland Development Agency (NIDA), is not in business in the province.

NIDA came into being in May of last year. Its forerunner, the Northern Ireland Finance Association, was started in 1971 with the job of creating new industry and financing companies in danger of closing. Unfortunately, NIDA's mandate came to be mainly on the latter role.

The political difficulties of Northern Ireland were found to have a profound effect on service industry, leaving manufacturing industry almost untouched. The Government wanted to encourage, so the association ended and the Northern Ireland Development Agency started with a shining new image and a determination

that all its projects would be run on strictly commercial lines. The implications would be considered only at the best of the Government, which provided £50m to finance new manufacturing enterprise.

Finance takes many forms but always involves the use of government cash. NIDA may help an under-capitalized Northern Ireland company to expand its capital base, exploit new technology or marketing methods. It may help a company to speed development plans. It may take a share in the equity of a new company or seek partner ships with established companies. It may finance joint ventures between incoming companies from the United Kingdom or elsewhere and resident Northern Ireland partners. If a market exists, raw material exists and suitable labour is to hand, NIDA can even finance a new industry.

In its first 18 months NIDA has been busy. It has helped to promote new products such as forklift trucks, agricultural machinery, meat products, locks and electrical appliances, bicycles and electronic equipment; it has been concerned with the expansion of a sawmill and the development of a heat pump. Mr Tony Hawkins, NIDA's finance director explains the bicycle project: "Early in 1976 we started researching marketing opportunities and saw the possibility of going into the bicycle market with a quality image, selling at a price which appealed to enthusiasts. Our marketing strategy was to sell through bicycle dealers."

After some market research, a frame and parts were made to the agency's specification. In the middle of last year NIDA authorized up to £1m to set up a manufacturing plant and the Viking Manufacturing Company was born.

Bicycle enthusiasts will recognize the old name and that alone has had a certain appeal to buyers. The plant is at Londonderry and is now turning out 50 cycles a day. Potentially there is work for 130 people: there are about 65 workers at present.

NIDA must be unique in its freedom of action and almost complete independence. It is true that the Government controls the supply of hard cash but the arrangement must be ideal for the entrepreneur to find an organization with £50m to spend, hard-headed business colleagues on the board and an absence of politicians and civil servants. Perhaps this freedom is the reason for the agency's success. But credit cannot be wholly denied the politicians: they made the money available. Mr to the civil servants: they, no doubt, did the sums in the first place.

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## Life goes on under siege

Anybody who has the idea that because of the troubles Northern Ireland is some sort of economic desert can forget it. Trade and industry are very much alive and kicking in the province. These were the words of Mr. Don Concanannon, Minister of State at the Northern Ireland Office with responsibility for commerce and manpower services, when he visited Sheffield earlier this year at the beginning of a trade promotion drive.

Nobody expects a Yorkshire-educated former junior to deliver anything other than a straight-from-the-shoulder observation, and Mr. Concanannon, never disappointed, is a past-master of promotional operations. The minister finds his initial and greatest difficulty is to persuade people that Belfast is not a modern version of Dodge City. "People visiting the province for the first time never cease to be amazed at the degree of normality they find there. They envisage a community under siege, but find to a remarkable extent that the people of the province go about their work and play very much as people in any other community in Great Britain," he observes.

Of course, Mr. Concanannon acknowledges, the terrorists are there, but he maintains, "they are getting thinner on the ground."

Northern Ireland's record on manufacturing production says much. Last year it rose by 4 per cent compared with 2 per cent for the United Kingdom as a whole and in the 10-year period to 1975 the percentage increase was the same, double that of the British figure. Exports are running at £1,450m a year and rising, thanks to globe-trotting teams of ministers and officials. In the past few months trade missions have been organized to the Middle East, Finland, Sweden, Norway and Germany. A mission to Australasia is the sixth since 1969. Buyers from Mitsubishi, Japan's biggest department store group, have bought more than £1,000m of goods from the province on a buying mission.

The Department of Commerce, the Northern Ireland Chamber of Commerce, the Northern Ireland Agricultural Trust, the British Overseas Trade Board as well as companies in their own right are promoting and selling as though their lives depend on it.

Wherever possible, ministers attend in support of trade missions. Mr. Concanannon accompanied 14 Northern Ireland companies to Saudi Arabia earlier this year to boost sales and services to Middle East countries and, after a visit to the Heimtex trade fair at Frankfurt, Northern Ireland companies secured orders for domestic textiles, including linen goods and carpets, worth £12m and potential follow-up orders worth another £15m.

Mr. Concanannon and his colleagues are setting a pace and workers and industry are responding. Success is hard won. Ulster manufacturers do not expect their goods to be bought out of public sympathy, Mr. Concanannon says. They must stand or fall on quality and their place in the league table of prices. "Orders are the lifeblood of individual firms. But more than that, they are an important contribution towards the improvement of conditions in an area with its own special problems and a fitting reward for people at all levels who have worked with tenacity and courage."

R.K.

## Glass cuts unemployment

If you are fortunate enough or important enough to be invited in for a drink by the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, the odds are you will find yourself clutching one of the heaviest, most beautifully cut, lead crystal 12-ounce whiskey glasses it has ever been your pleasure to behold.

The purpose of this homily is not to observe the niceties of entertainment at Stormont Castle, or that Mr. Roy Mason knows a good thing when he sees one, but to draw attention to one of Northern Ireland's success stories in manpower. Two companies, Tyrone Crystal and Ulster Crystal (the products of both are to be found in the higher price brackets on Fifth Avenue) owe their early beginnings to the same concept of a scheme unique to Northern Ireland — the Integrated Workforce Unit.

The basic idea is to take about a dozen unemployed men with complementary abilities and train them in basic engineering skills so

that they may operate as a complete unit capable of commercial production. Employers are then invited to take the unit and integrate it into a labour force. Five units are in operation and nine are in training. This is provided by the Manpower Services Department at one of the 14 Government Training Centres in the province and while the men are in training the department starts the hunt to place them. Many units have been successfully integrated since the scheme started about five years ago.

When the IWF scheme started it provided for training in basic engineering. The department points out that while it is true that much industrial activity is founded on engineering the concept of the IWF is such that it can be readily adapted to provide training and experience in a wide range of activities demanding a degree of skill. The primary aim, says the department, is to provide a base for local activity, with local investment in, and a

sense of identity with, the undertaking. Although Ulster Crystal, the first of two companies to be formed, did not emerge directly from an IWF, the same concept was used by a Roman Catholic priest, Father Eustace, who established the firm at Andersonstown, one of the most difficult areas of Belfast.

Another major initiative in training aimed at youth unemployment was announced in June, the Youth Opportunities Programme. There were already 4,000 training and employment places for young people in Northern Ireland. The new scheme stepped this up to 6,000 "training, experience and employment" places.

The aim of the scheme is to channel young people into suitable permanent employment when it becomes available. There is also a Youth Employment Subsidy of £10 a week to encourage employers to take on young people.

R.K.

## Stagnant UK economy blunts EEC benefits

by Robert Rodwell

From his 250 acres on the suburban fringes of Belfast, Mr. Robin Morrow, a dairy farmer, looks down directly on to Stormont's Department of Agriculture a few hundred yards away. He hopes to see the midnight oil burning this month as ministers and officials get to grips with an impending blow to Northern Ireland's agriculture — the ending of the Government's milk price guarantees on December 31 when the transitional arrangements after the United Kingdom's entry to the EEC cease.

Unless the Government can find the money, will and room for manoeuvre within the Common Agricultural Policy Mr. Morrow and his Northern colleagues will, from January 1, receive several pence less on every gallon of milk they produce than their British counterparts.

Mr. Morrow, last year's president of the Ulster Farmers' Union, was confident that Northern Irish farmers would find a prosperous future inside Europe. But he now believes that the stagnant state of the United Kingdom's economy has totally blunted any positive benefits which EEC membership might otherwise have conferred.

He has felt only the drawbacks so far. Among these is the loss of North American grain imports on which Northern Ireland's intensive pig and poultry industries were based and on which, to a lesser extent, the cattle farmers also relied. The cheap North American cereals have been replaced by more expensive grains from within the Community, adding to producers' other disadvantages — transport costs to distant British markets and energy costs way above the average.

Now producing livestock, dairy foods and cash crops worth about £400m a year, Northern Ireland's 60,000 farmers and farm workers constitute more than 10 per cent of the working population. With another 15,000 in such ancillary industries as food processing, fer-

tilizers, agricultural engineering and supply, 14 per cent of the province's workers live off the land. Agriculture is thus by far the largest industry in the territory, where the EEC's CAP ceases to be merely a group of milkshakes but is a potentially crucial factor in overall economic health.

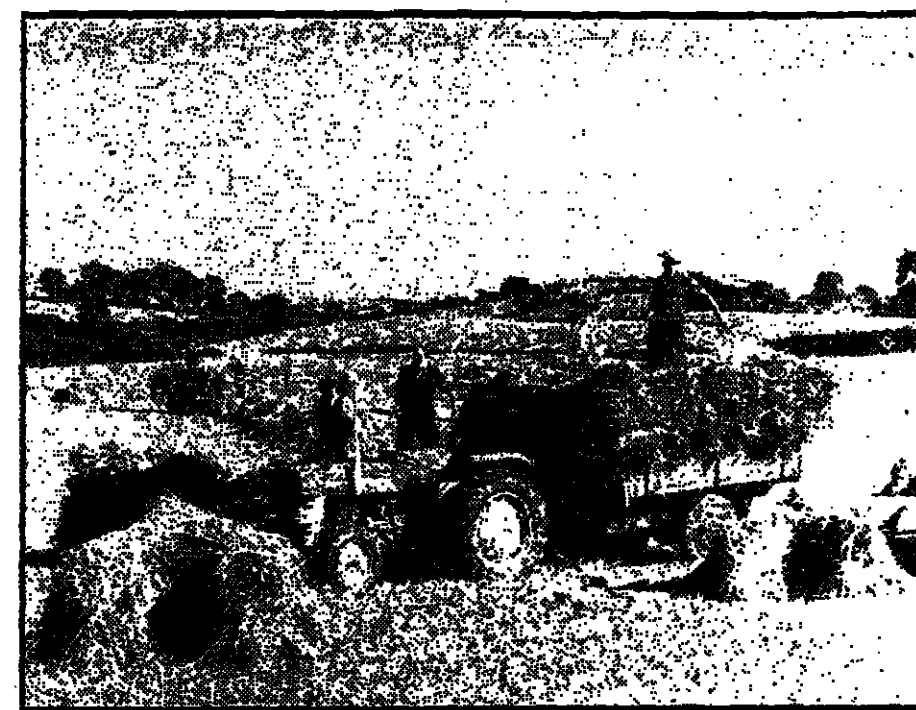
With more than 1,500,000 cattle the beef and dairy sectors are worth more than £200m annually and account for more than half the industry's total output. The dairy farmers' impending difficulties stem from the replacement of nationwide milk price guarantees by the EEC system of payments based on market returns.

British farmers sell nearly 60 per cent of their milk into the lucrative liquid trade but, with their lack of large metropolitan populations near by, Northern Ireland's milk producers sell only 23 per cent of their output on the liquid market. The rest goes for manufacture into butter, cheese or skimmed milk powder and commands a lower price.

Ideally, they want the Government to devalue the artificially high green pound which would lead to higher EEC intervention prices for butter, cheese and skimmed milk. But when the new rules begin on January 1, but with the Government committed to continuing pay restraint and trying to hold it to its 10 per cent guideline, they raise the chances of such a devaluation, with an inflationary effect upon food prices in the shops, as very low.

An initial devaluation of perhaps 12½ per cent, with an indication of intent to devalue further, would meet their requirements. Instead, they expect the Government to offer a special compensatory scheme for Northern Ireland under EEC rules permit. The disadvantage of special schemes, in a long-term business like farming, is their temporary nature; their continuation is not guaranteed.

Northern Ireland's most abundant crop is lush grass. Less than a quarter of the land is tilled. Cereal cultivation — almost entirely for feeding one's own herd or flock or for sale to a neighbouring farmer — is a fairly small beer. Although it is only a drop in the bucket of the province's overall consumption of feed grains, this



Since joining the Community Northern Ireland has lost the North American grain imports on which its intensive pig and poultry industries were based.

year's cereal harvest was excellent, up 25 per cent on last year's at 250,000 tonnes.

Bumper crops, however, can only marginally reduce the need to import cereals. The intensive pig and poultry sectors, both of which ship most of their output to Britain, slumped disastrously two or three years ago when Soviet purchases of North American grain surpluses pushed world prices through the roof.

Many pig and poultry producers left the business. The weekly delivery of pigs to the processing plants dropped to only 13,000 two years ago. The £50m a year industry has partially recovered and throughput is running at about 19,000 a week but it is still scarcely half the peak rate at the start of this decade. Eggs, at about £33m in the last full year, bring nearly twice as much as poultry.

Farmers are playing an active role in developing new markets and lessening their dependence on British sales. Pig processors, including the Pigs Marketing Board, are routing Japan to develop pork product outlets there.

After the collapse of negotiations on a joint project with the Government's Northern Ireland Finance Corporation (now the NI Deve-

lopment Agency), the UFU has gone it alone with the formation of a members' marketing cooperative, Ulster Farmers' Investments.

This has raised more than £2m from beef and pig producers to buy a controlling share in one of the largest meat plants at Moy, co. Tyrone. The aim is for producers to control about 30 per cent of the industry either directly or in partnership with other firms. UFU's marketing organization is being set up to sell meat cut and processed to export customers' requirements — which are often radically different from standard United Kingdom practices.

A similar cooperative, Niles (NI Livestock Exports), has recently started to capitalize on the province's enviable high standards of animal health and develop exports of pedigree stock which are running at approximately £2m a year. With Northern Ireland and the republic forming a common veterinary health area, having no foot-and-mouth outbreak for more than 30 years and having almost eradicated brucellosis, breeders are able to sell livestock to many countries, including the United States, where even British beasts are banned.

A similar virus-free reputation is enjoyed by Nor-

thern Ireland's seed potatoes, more than half of them traditionally sold in the Mediterranean markets through a specialist marketing board.

Last year, the board's 2,000 registered producers shipped more than 80,000 tonnes and their output was worth about £19m, but present seed potato prices are running at less than a third of last year's record levels.

Producers of ware potatoes are similarly faced with a major slump in prices following this year's abundant crop. During Europe's last two years of drought, prices went sky high as British and continental buyers clamoured for Ulster's potatoes. During last year's boom, more than £170 a ton was reached.

This year about 25 per cent greater acreage was planted but, with only the local market interested again, prices are less than £30 a ton — lower than the production cost — and lots of fingers are being badly burnt. Mr. Frank Espley, a UFU official, expects the worst sufferers to be speculators who rented extra land under the Irish 11-month consacre system: the prudent farmer who spread his risks should be cushioned by his exceptional income of last year.

This season's broadest

smiles are being worn by the fruit growers in Armagh and south Tyrone. They escaped the blossom-time frosts which decimated this year's English apple crop. As a result there has been a rush of English buyers for apples to put into store.

More than half of Northern Ireland's 33,000 farms are less than viable one-man businesses, whose owners combine farming with a second job or are otherwise retired. A series of radical land Acts between 1870 and 1925 broke up the big estates and produced virtually 100 per cent owner-occupancy of Irish farmland. With normal land letting precluded, the consacre system evolved under which the elderly, widows or others not wishing actively to farm let their land seasonally to neighbours. Still widely used, the system permits farmers to expand their own holdings, to use high capacity machinery economically, and injects some flexibility into an otherwise rigid system of land tenure.

But, with the average farm less than half the British size, the province is ripe for the EEC's general policy of encouraging amalgamations into larger units, and phasing out the small farmers.

The Government has no specific policy to encourage such amalgamations, relying on economic imperatives to produce the same effect. Individual holdings decline steadily by several hundreds every year but Dr. James Young, permanent secretary of the Department of Agriculture, sees the present 13 per cent level of unemployment as a serious deterrent, stopping many people from leaving farming to move into other fields and thus inhibiting rationalization.

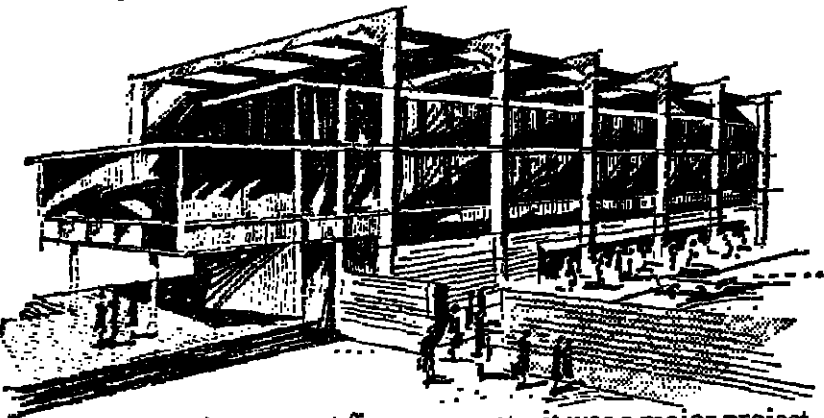
One last problem confronting sheep farmers is a vast and recent increase in sheep-worrying by dogs. Farmers are in uproar over packs of killer dogs roaming wild and causing annual losses of about 7,000 sheep — worth £220,000 or about 3 per cent of this sector's annual value. The Government declined to accept a draft Bill last year which provided for dog warrants, a higher dog licence fee and increased fines on errant owners. Mr. James Dunn, Northern Ireland Office junior minister for agriculture, felt that legislation should not be out of step with Britain in this controversial area.

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It's all part of our plan to create easier, smoother train travel for the people of Ulster: another part of the new system, Citytrack, has meant better, more direct commuting for people in

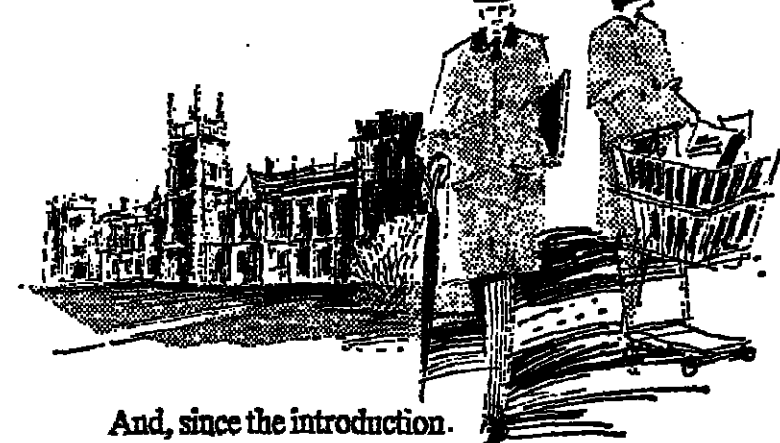
and around Belfast.

And the building of a new station at Botanic, near Belfast's Queen's University, means this important commercial and academic area now has its own train service.

Next, and of course most important for our visitors from the mainland, is our service from Great Britain to all parts of Ireland.

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Once in Northern Ireland, the businessman now has ready access through our network to Dublin and the rail service of the south.

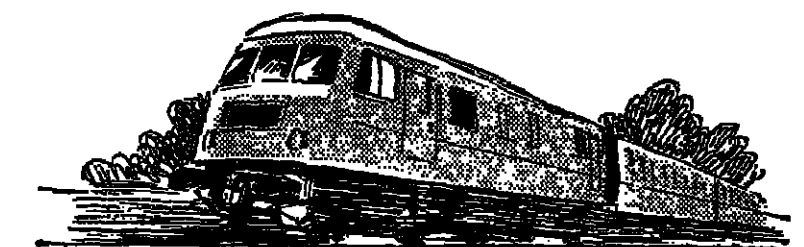


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of new rolling stock has been another feature of our investment plan, by early 1978, whatever train the businessman travels on will either be brand new or completely refurbished.

Not all the things we carry on our trains are passengers, of course. We've also established parcel delivery and freight services. Our Red Star Parcels Service, for example, ensures a

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In fact, there are more proposed developments — such as another link through Central Station — to come.

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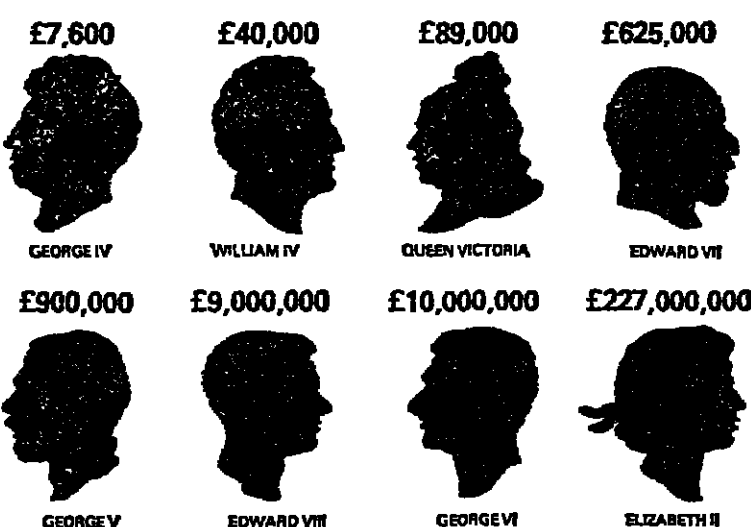
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by Ronald Pullen

Without the stable backdrop to be able to assess risks and quantify uncertainty with at least a reasonable degree of accuracy, the grey line that invariably exists both in the banking and insurance industries between excessive caution and imprudence stands in danger of being erased altogether.

Northern Ireland's history of civil disorder for the past nine years is just the kind of exogenous factor that might have been expected either to bring the banks and insurance companies to a halt, prepared only to countenance safe and routine business, or to force them into areas that could have led to disaster.

Even the most cursory look at Northern Ireland's commercial life shows that neither has happened. But there is no gainsaying the fact that security problems have been a serious handicap to the development of banking and insurance, especially in the early 1970s when the number of incidents was especially high. Resilience is one of the words you hear continually in Northern Ireland, and in few areas is this more relevant than in banking and insurance where the companies have come to terms with the difficult working conditions. Moreover, over the past year or so, a new-found confidence appears to be circulating through the financial sector about its longer term future.

Part of the reason for this turn of events may be nothing more, according to

some business leaders in the province, than that violence and disorder have become so institutionalized that banks, insurance companies, even industry generally, has not only learned to live with the difficulties but have developed a framework to mitigate the worst consequences.

More fundamental though, is that whatever political stresses there have been, economic progress has been fairly rapid—with growth well up to that achieved in many other industrialized countries and at times about twice as fast as the rest of the United Kingdom.

In that sort of bothworld, there is no way that financial institutions can afford to take a back seat without finding their long-term position usurped.

True, as the Quigley report emphasized a year ago, the economy may have stalled for the moment—and long-term capital investment has certainly been deterred by the troubles—but the developing economy demands much of its financial system. Northern Ireland banks were not restricted last year in their lending freedom by the introduction of the Bank of England's "corset" scheme.

Interest rates, however, reflect those in London with the main Northern Ireland banks tying their base rates to the London clearing. Thanks to the British Government's compensation scheme for civil disorder damage, the banks rarely find it necessary to charge customers a higher rate simply because they live in particularly vulnerable locations. According to the latest Bank

of England figures, advances by Northern Ireland banks rose by a half to £451m in the 18 months to May, roughly three times faster than the London clearing banks.

Admittedly, those figures have been somewhat complicated by the Irish bank strike and preliminary figures since July suggest some slowing. But the underlying trend has been upward and most of the increase has gone to manufacturing and other productive sectors like agriculture and construction rather than personal spending.

Officially, the Northern Ireland banking system is no more than a segment of the whole United Kingdom system with security and some liquidity and reserve requirements. Separate figures have been kept since 1966 but the four big banks do have the right to issue their own notes. Nevertheless, it is not always subject to the same clamp-down as the rest of the United Kingdom banking system. Northern Ireland banks were not restricted last year in their lending freedom by the introduction of the Bank of England's "corset" scheme.

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## Educationists draw up their battle-lines

by Diana Geddes

Northern Ireland is watching closely the vicissitudes of comprehensive reorganization in England and Wales. Those in favour of the Government's decision, announced in June, to introduce comprehensive schooling in the province are anxious to learn from England's mistakes; while those who are opposed jump on every reported failure, real or imagined, of English education.

The attitude of Father McCaughan, vice-chairman of the Belfast Education and Library Board, roughly equivalent to an English local education authority, is fairly typical of many people in the province: "Like everyone else we are keeping our heads down and waiting to see what happens", he says. "There is a fear of changing something that seems to be working fairly well for something that, judging from across the water, does not seem to be working terribly well."

While examination results do not necessarily relate to the quality of education, it is worth noting that more

than four fifths of pupils in England and Wales leave school with at least one graded CSE or GCE examination result compared with three fifths in Northern Ireland.

The recent cry of Mr St John-Stevens, Conservative spokesman on education, to local education authorities to retain their remaining grammar schools because help was coming, perhaps brought joy to the hearts of many of the 79 grammar schools and their 48,000 pupils (representing a third of the secondary school population) in Northern Ireland which now face reorganization.

Northern Ireland's grammar schools are probably even more historical than those in England and Wales might prove more difficult to uproot. Unlike England, the province has hardly any private-independent schools. But parents who are well off whose children fail the 11-plus examination can still send their children to their choice on payment of a fee. All the grammar schools, about half of which are Catholic and half Protestant, are technically fee-paying. But in return for substantial

financial assistance from the Government, four fifths of the places are reserved for children who pass the 11-plus and they are automatically eligible for a state scholarship to cover full tuition fees which cost about £150 to £500 a year.

To try to abolish the grammar schools in Northern Ireland is similar to trying to abolish the grammar and independent schools in England in one go. The Roman Catholic Church is not happy about the possibility of mixing Catholic and Protestant children in school. The most recently published research asserts that 98 per cent of pupils and teachers are segregated by religion.

The whole of primary and secondary education in Northern Ireland is divided by religion. On the one side there are the controlled schools, originally founded by Protestant head or mill owners and run in conjunction with the local church. In 1930 they were transferred to the state on condition that the Protestant Church be entitled to at least half the representation on the school governing bodies with the other half comprising equal numbers of parents and representatives of local education boards.

On the other side are the voluntary maintained schools which are nearly all Roman Catholic. After an agreement between the Department of Education and the Roman Catholic Church in 1968, the schools receive state grants to cover the cost of all their running and maintenance and 85 per cent of their capital expenditure. Two thirds of the school governing bodies are appointed by the Roman Catholic Church.

Pressure groups for integration, largely middle class, cite surveys which assert that two thirds of ordinary Catholics and a similar proportion of Protestants are in favour of integrated schools.

They criticize strongly the Government's consultation document on comprehensive reorganization for trying to remove social and intellectual divisions in the province without tackling the greater and related difficulty of religious and cultural divisions. A private members' Bill, backed by the movement, is

soon to be introduced in the House of Lords by Lord Dunleath. It provides for integrated schools to be set up where at least three quarters of the parents favour, or at least do not oppose, the proposal.

Church representation on a school's governing body would be reduced to a third, half Catholic and half Protestant, with another third for parents and the remaining third for representatives of the area education board. The Bill was introduced in the last parliamentary session and received a second reading before it ran out of time.

The Roman Catholic Church all over the world has always wanted to educate its own children. In Northern Ireland it does not seem to mind too much about Catholics going to state nurseries or to colleges of further and higher education. The Roman Catholic Bishop of Derry, the Most Rev Dr Edward Daly, said earlier this year: "As bishop of this diocese, any effort to take over our schools will be resisted by me and I hope will have the support of the vast majority of the people in the diocese."

Lord Melchett, Minister of State at the Northern Ireland Office, with responsibility for education and youth, might feel he has enough on his hands in trying to coax through comprehensive reorganization without trying to take on the Roman Catholic hierarchy as well. He has made it clear that while the Government is in favour of integration, it feels that it is not essential to reorganization and has no intention of forcing it.

Among few working parties set up by Lord Melchett to examine the question of reorganization, however, is one specifically on the participation of the voluntary schools which include the Catholic maintained schools and the grammar schools.

Another working party will look at the composition of school governing bodies. A third will study the curriculum, which is also sensitive, for Catholics. A fourth is examining the feasibility of separate, integrated, sixth forms. The last is studying the administrative and legislative aspects of reorganization.

The five education and library boards have been asked to start drawing up plans for rebuilding secondary education in their areas. Lord Melchett says that the Government thinks it important to ensure that the plans are drawn up locally.

The Government, he says, does not believe that there is any best method of organizing comprehensive schooling, nor any single best method of teaching nor any single set curriculum. One of the lessons of England is that good comprehensive schools can emerge in many different types and sizes.

That insistence on making local decisions may be misleading for English readers familiar with the large degree of autonomy enjoyed by local education authorities.

The area education boards, which replaced the former eight education committees under the Education and Libraries Order in 1972, are financed wholly by the Department of Education and all their expenditure is subject to the department's approval.

The department also nominates three fifths of board members, the remaining two fifths consisting of local councillors. That means that there can be considerable central control of education, though in practice the boards have fairly free, until now.

The Government is now treading cautiously. Consultations of all kinds are going on and no deadline has been set. Lord Melchett talks soothingly of change taking place "through evolution not revolution". Getting reorganization right was more important than doing it quickly.

Nevertheless, he says: "It would be undesirable for the process to be drawn out for an unnecessarily lengthy period of time." If the area boards drag their feet too much, the whip is close at hand, unlike the position in England.

## How do they stick it?

by Christopher Walker

As every full-time correspondent in Northern Ireland over the past eight violent years knows, one of the most frequent and infuriating questions asked by friends and acquaintances on return visits home is always: "How do you stick it?"

The answer probably lies in admiration for the resilience and humour of the local people combined with fascination, verging on addiction for their seemingly insoluble problems. But in addition there are many different aspects of Ulster's life and environment which remain attractive and quite distinctive from those in the rest of Britain. To assist any potential visitor who may only have heard the worst, I have compiled a short and deliberately subjective list of some of the places and things to be enjoyed.

First there are the restaurants and hotels. Even before the bombers began to wreak havoc, Northern Ireland's reputation for cooking had been high, but now much emphasis is laid on quantity rather than quality. Although the number of establishments has probably dropped in recent years, standards in those that remain have improved considerably.

Belfast itself has little to offer, although a new venture has recently got under way to revive the oyster bar which was always a welcome feature of the city centre. This has recently reopened in company with a cheerful luncheon bistro in the premises of the Chester

Bar in Chichester Street, one of the oldest public houses in the city still standing.

The imaginative scheme, indicative of recent improvements in security, is the responsibility of the most energetic couple involved in local catering, Denis and Margie Crawford. Together they manage Blades, an elegant and civilised spot which moved three years ago from Co. Londonderry to new premises in the peaceful market town of Comber.

Specialties are local seafood and game and, for the benefit of the faint-hearted, they have not experienced so much as a bomb scare since the restaurant moved in 1974.

Hotels have suffered considerably more than restaurants from the terrorists, and more so than the Belfast Forest Park at Newcastle.

Elsewhere in Co. Down, Mount Stewart House, the National Trust's latest acquisition in Northern Ireland, will be well worth visiting when it reopens next season. Complete with country house rooms, lake, and panoramic views over Strangford Lough, the gardens share many similarities with the subtropical vegetation of the south of Ireland. Both are surrounded by the Gulf Stream.

Whatever else the crisis has done to Ulster, it has done nothing to diminish the range of local bread, which is unrivalled elsewhere in the British Isles. Irish Republic. Distinctions and bread food fanatics was typical over the course

for touring the spectacular coastline.

Second there is the countryside. This is one aspect of the province which has remained unscathed, and which continues to make any trip to Northern Ireland well worth while. There few visitors who do still brave the difficulties often emphasize the lack of traffic and fellow tourists which adds considerably to the natural beauty of the landscape.

Further afield, the Mourne Mountains remain an unbeatable attraction. Those not energetic enough for full-blooded climbing trips can take advantage of the wide range of walks provided in the impeccably administered Mullaghmore Forest Park at Newcastle.

Almost unaccountably normal in the centre of the city is the Lanes Library, founded in 1788 and still run on private subscriptions by the industrious and admirably named Belfast Library Society for Promoting Knowledge. It occupies two spacious floors opposite the Town Hall, providing relaxed reading rooms, a wealth of local and national periodicals, and the atmosphere of a London club which has known slightly better days.

It is a perfect and incongruous spot to escape from the bustle or a bomb scare, and one which boasts one of the finest collections of Irish literature in the world. Membership costs £8 a year, but visitors can take out a three-monthly pass for £2.

Wheaten loaves produced by White's Home Bakery in Belfast and countless other varieties big and small throughout the province. Other varieties readily available are soda bread (with or without fruit), potato and wheaten farls for frying, barmbracks and puppets. None of it is recommended for weight-watchers.

Culture is in depressingly short supply and therefore all the more welcome in the occasional oasis of sanity where it can still be found. Cinemas have recently become the latest target for IRA fire-bombers, but Belfast's Lyric Theatre continues to maintain a high standard despite obvious difficulties; among the plays planned for this season is a comedy about life in Europe written by Brendan Behan's brother, Dominic.

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## Security forces may be getting the upper hand

by Henry Stanhope

In the autumn of 1974 a colonel in Belfast told me that he thought that the war against the IRA would be over by Christmas of that year. It was not an entirely rash boast in view of the jerky progress which had been made since Operation Motorman in the summer of 1972, towards the restoration of law and order in the Six Counties. But it is worth quoting here as a cautionary tale.

It is worth quoting now particularly because the security forces, after three more years of difficult and dangerous operations are once more in a position from which to take the future with some confidence. No one in Belfast will subscribe to anything more heady than cautious optimism but, after a difficult year last year, more recent statistics show a rising level of attrition against the gunmen.

The pattern is not an even one. The number of explosions in the province until September 30 was only 204, against 606 during the same period in 1976, and the total of shooting incidents stood at 861 as opposed to 1,465. But the use of incendiaries by the IRA—or anyone else—had actually risen. As many as 179 had been successfully used, against 108 during the first nine months of 1976, and 222 had been neutralized in contrast to 58 last year.

More soldiers have been killed this year, both in the Army (13 against 10 last year) and the Ulster Defence Regiment (12 against eight). And 14 policemen have died—five fewer than in the same period last year, but not in itself a very significant fall.

On the other hand again, the roll among civilians is down, from 201 to 61, and while such statistics provide only a very flimsy base for firm conclusions, they do suggest a continuing decline in the level of violence. The switch in emphasis from the large car bomb explosions to incendiaries, which are smaller, cheaper and easier to conceal, reflects the constraints under which the terrorists must now be operating.



Public relations, army-style, in a Belfast street.

It is already beginning to sound and look a slightly less embattled province—although the continuing incidence of murders and snailings makes even this cautious statement sound dangerously complacent. The paraphernalia of siege warfare in city centres will for some time yet distinguish life in Northern Ireland from that in any other part of Britain. It is the seasoned Ulster campaigner returning after a prolonged absence who is most likely to detect the improving climate.

### Committed to Way Ahead plan

The security forces are now firmly committed to The Way Ahead—the optimistic title which enshrines the philosophy of RUC primacy. The idea of replacing the Army by the police in the front line of the battle for law and order is not particularly new in itself. Nor is it by any means complete.

The day when a police patrol can move on foot through some of the hard areas of Northern Ireland without a protecting ring of armed troops is still very

distant. In many areas of the province this has never been feasible anyway. But gradually the Army is lowering its profile, so that soldiers can act in support of the RUC rather than as a substitute for it. The reasons why The Way Ahead is now becoming a reality rather than a vague concept are complex. One is simply that the RUC is stronger than it was, having quietly regrouped in the rear while the Army has occupied the front line. The criminal investigation department has, for example, been reorganized, with regional crime squads and a new intelligence section, and an increase in the number of anti-terrorist specialists.

Another reason is simply that the gunmen on both sides are gradually losing ground in the war of attrition which has been fought against them. Since Operation Motorman, when the Army established itself in the no-go areas, the fight for law and order has been a slow, grinding, wearing down operation. There have been sudden advances and also setbacks—notably the 1975 ceasefire which allowed the IRA to regroup its battered forces. But gradually the security forces have made life increasingly diffi-

cult for the gunmen, decimating their more experienced leaders and disrupting their supply lines. Now the policy of attrition is beginning to pay off. There has long been an argument in favour of the Army adopting a lower profile. Patrols have often seemed to present easy targets for IRA snipers, particularly at night, with the aim of the terrorists being to cause maximum damage to the rule of law must be represented by some sort of military presence in the absence of a strong and acceptable police force.

### Some rapport with local people

Moreover patrolling soldiers have enabled the security authorities to maintain an intelligence profile of the areas they have covered. They have also established some sort of rapport, however slight, with the inhabitants. This close intelligence profile of the province is also paying off, in the form of the improved arrest rates of terrorists and the growing number of convictions in the

courts—although there is still heavy reliance upon forensic evidence.

But there is also a growing disenchantment among Northern Ireland people with the aims of the terrorists. The peace movement has been significant not so much because of its achievements—although the impact upon romantic Irish-American immigrants in the United States is considerable—as because of what it has represented.

With signs of a general desire now for a gradual return to normality, the reformed police force should be able to take firmer control of all but the hardest of the hard-line areas.

There are 14,000 soldiers in Northern Ireland, including an estimated 60 to 80 members of the Special Air Service. Much as the Army would like to reduce this force so that it can repair its shattered training schedules, it would probably be a mistake to reduce it too dramatically. The level of violence has not fallen to such an extent that the police could manage without a strong military back-up. But the way ahead is at last discernible in the gloom.

The author is Defence Correspondent, The Times.

## Social services are under restraint

by Pat Healy

Northern Ireland has had more than its fair share of social problems since well before the present troubles added a new dimension of insecurity to young and old alike.

It was, and is, an area of extreme hardship for a frighteningly large proportion of its population, with poverty, poor housing, educational disadvantage and unemployment present to a much larger degree than anywhere else in the United Kingdom.

Paradoxically, the troubles have helped even though they have brought new problems with families uprooted from their former homes, children brought up in an atmosphere of violence at least in the large towns, and elderly people withdrawing more into themselves.

The troubles have had the effect of focusing attention on the degree of economic deprivation in Northern Ireland, which is arguably as high as to be intolerable even in a "peaceful" society.

A direct result is that the statutory social services are administered regionally, through combined health and social services boards, and are maintaining a higher growth rate than is possible in Britain. Though subject to economic constraints, no service has had to be cut back.

in Northern Ireland as has happened in Britain.

While British local authorities are having to keep to a maximum 2 per cent growth, and even that has been endangered by over-spending, in Northern Ireland the personal social services have a guaranteed growth rate of 4 per cent up to 1980.

But the social services began to develop in 1973 from a much lower base than in Britain which had already enjoyed two years of fast development after reorganization. And, in spite of the widespread view in Northern Ireland that money is not a real obstacle to developing services, the rate of growth has been slowed by the general need to constrain expenditure.

That is regrettable when Northern Ireland is clearly behind Britain in some of its social services, particularly in relation to children.

There are only four day nurseries for children under five in Northern Ireland, all of them in the eastern area which includes Greater Belfast. The number of places they provide is only 9 per 10,000 children under five, compared with 16 per 10,000 in England which has 169 places per 10,000 children and even that is widely acknowledged as meeting only a fraction of the need.

The number of registered childminders is also well below the English total, and minders tend to be concentrated in the better areas, leaving the overcrowded centres of Belfast, Londonderry and Strabane with almost no officially approved minders to turn to.

The number of pre-school playgroups does not fall quite so far behind, but they still provide for only half the proportion of under-fives as in England. The one area where Northern Ireland is ahead in providing for under-fives is in education, not social services. Nearly twice as many children start school at four in Northern Ireland as in England.

Both the plight of the under-fives, particularly in the inner city areas, and the recognition that treatment for children in trouble needs overhaul have led to recent government initiatives. In July, Lord Mather, Minister of State, published a discussion paper on the under-fives in which he called for ideas to achieve rapid progress, and a month earlier the Black Committee published a consultative document on legislation and services for children and young people in Northern Ireland.

The latter has focused a great deal of attention on the plight of children in trouble in Northern Ireland where, although delinquency is only half the rate in Britain, non-offenders are much more likely to end up being sent away from home. Comments on the Black report are still being sought, but there is now a much greater commitment among Northern Ireland professionals to the idea that children in trouble should be treated rather than punished.

The first experimental centre to try to put the principle into practice in Northern Ireland opened in Dunmurry on October 1 and is now dealing with eight boys who had appeared in court. Before Whitefield House opened, the eight boys would have gone to a residential assessment centre away from their homes; now they are attending in the centre each day from their homes, and their parents are being involved directly in deciding how they should be dealt with.

While Whitefield House offers hope that social services in Northern Ireland are developing in more liberal ways, there is little indication of movement in another area which seriously affects the civil liberties of the poor. Because of the high unemployment and low wages prevalent there, Northern Ireland takes a proportionately higher share of the total social security budget of the United Kingdom than its population would indicate.

But, alone in the United Kingdom, social security claimants can have their benefits unilaterally reduced to pay for public debts like rent, rates, gas and electricity bills.

The author is Social Services Correspondent, The Times.

## Some fishing is complimentary

by John Chartres

One of the most engaging of the many statistical calculations provided for journalists visiting Northern Ireland is that there is one foot of fish for every three feet of water.

Whatever one's particular bent in the wide scope of fishing as a recreation—course, game or sea—there are vast amounts of the right sort of water, all of it heavily populated below the surface and most of it lightly populated by fishermen around the banks and shores. None of it is measurably polluted.

All forms of fishing are cheap for participants. It is free, of course, anywhere on the sea with steadily increasing fleets of boats for hire available around the 300-mile coastline. Most of the inland waters have been controlled by the Department of Agriculture for the past 10 years and about 60 lochs and river waters can be fished by arrangement for about £6 a season. The department was charged under a 1966 Act with "acquiring and developing inland waters in Northern Ireland for angling".

There are still some so-called "free-fishing" areas where normally only the riparian owner's permission is required, and is usually generously given provided the countryside is respected. Licence and permit requirements vary slightly from area to area and are subject to annual changes in cost but a rough guide is that a game fishing permit for salmon and trout costs

about £250 for two weeks and the accompanying rod licence £2.

For other fresh water fishing a Department of Agriculture permit costs 50p a year and a rod licence 70p. Because the department acknowledges that boys—and many girls—love fishing but seldom have much money, young people under 16 are allowed to fish many waters without permits, naturally with the reservation that they do not take salmon or sea trout without the necessary papers.

The bream, roach and pike on water like the Erne have grown untroubled and to great size. There is no close season for coarse fishing.

A little commercial netting for pike is now permitted under closely controlled conditions since a ready market is being found for it on the Continent. Eel trapping has always been a small but important feature of the Northern Ireland economy.

On the sea, it is claimed that at least 24 varieties can be caught from the Atlantic on the west to the Irish Sea on the east. In the many almost land-locked estuaries which share the title "lochs" with the inland lakes, fish from sole to shark are to be found. Tope of 50lb or so are regarded as women's sport on Strangford Lough.

The potential of the coast near the Giant's Causeway to the north has only recently been exploited with 10lb bass frequently taken and portbeagle shark and nests of congers known about.

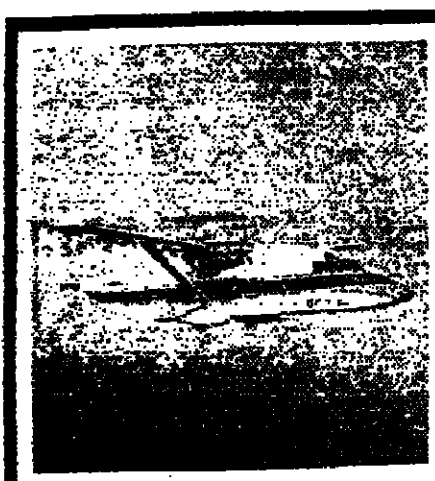
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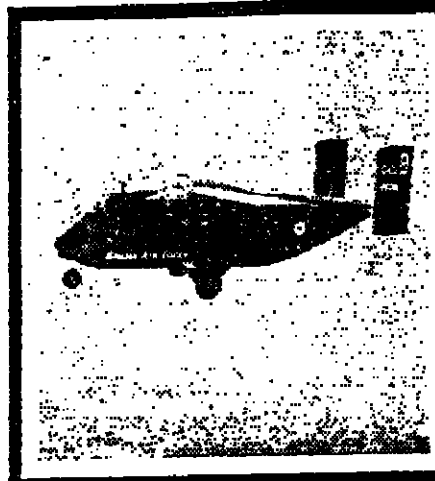
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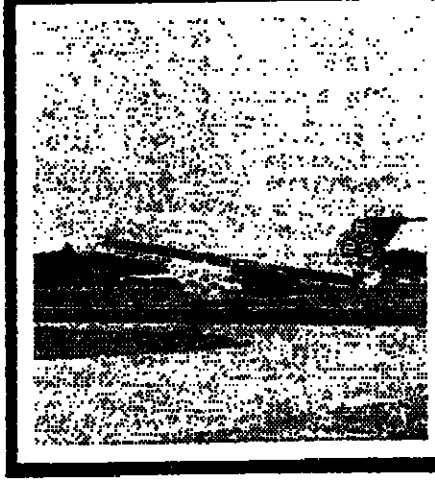
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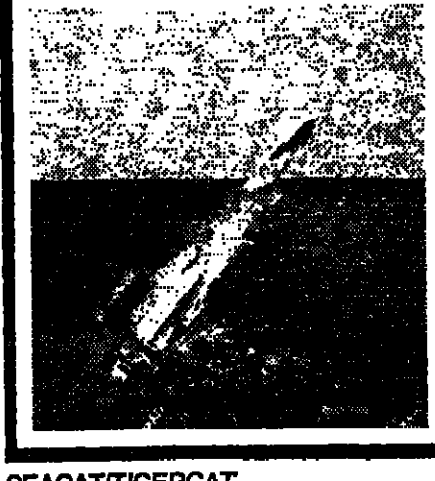
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by Alan Watson

It is not easy for public transport to make a profit in Northern Ireland. The financial performance of the bus companies reflects a considerable achievement for a service faced with hard times and frequent contact with terrorism.

Citybus, which runs a service in Belfast, lost about 20 per cent of its fleet in the year up to last April. Nearly 70 buses went up in smoke. Compensation for a loss like that cannot hope to match the purchase price of new vehicles and yet for the first time since the company took over from the old Belfast Corporation transport department four years ago it made a pre-tax profit.

Beyond the city boundary Ulsterbus, a sister company, managed to complete a decade of trading in which it consistently made a surplus, something rare in public transport in the United Kingdom.

More than 120 buses were destroyed in 1976-77, placing a great burden on a hard-pressed management and bringing staff face-to-face with violence.

Both bus companies, as

well as the railways and the Aldergrove airport, operate as limited subsidiary companies under the Northern Ireland Transport Holding Company. Though in the public sector their style is that of private enterprise. In a review of the last trading year the chairman, Mr Robert Rolston, summed up their performance as "achievement in adversity".

Another side-effect of civil unrest, which has siphoned off as much as 40 per cent of Belfast's bus trade on the more profitable routes, is the operation of hundreds of taxis, mostly second-hand London cabs, which exist with the approval of the so-called paramilitary groups and with what the authorities regard as inadequate insurance and frequent overcrowding.

Mr Derek Cheatley, chief executive of the Transport Holding Co., estimates that the taxis are taking more than £1m a year on three main routes, which include the strongly republican Falls Road and the loyalist Shankill Road.

Despite those hardships the public purse gives little to keep the wheels turning. Last year the amount of money granted to passenger transport was £6 a head of the population as against £13 a head in Britain.

Northern Ireland Railways is still losing money, but it has been building for the future with the introduction of a new central Belfast line connecting major consumer services, and with the opening of the new Belfast Central Station.

The company is now fighting for a further link between that new station and the line to Larne, Co. Antrim, a move which would connect the entire network. It would involve a new railway bridge over the River Lagan and, though the Department of the Environment has given little consideration to the idea, it was recently described as "a live issue" by the inspector at the public inquiry into city transport.

Expressed use of the railway, although exaggerated and, coupled with a modest fare rise, could help to clear the railway deficit.

The transport inquiry resumed last month after a summer adjournment. Since the once great plan for the city's urban motorways was scrapped some years ago, the environment department

has presented Belfast with three choices.

One is that resources should be concentrated on public transport; another takes the opposite approach and lays the emphasis on building roads. The department has chosen the middle path by backing the third proposal which provides for a new road bridge over the Lagan, a link road between the two motorways into the city and an inner ring road as well as a moderate improvement in public transport.

The shopping precincts of Belfast are free of traffic for reasons of security, leaving only a series of narrow corridors around the city centre. Industry and commerce are anxious that the link should be built between the M1 and M2 to keep the remaining roads free from heavy cross-town traffic. Access to the port of Belfast is one of their concerns. Though many of Northern Ireland's roads are unclassified and serve scattered country areas, a lot of them have been reconstructed and improved to European standards.

Despite Government spending cuts, the department has planned an extensive programme. In April this year it put development costs for the next two years at £2m with a further £20m to be released soon afterwards.

Much of the road improvement to date has been designed to ease the flow of commercial traffic to the main ports. Besides Belfast the two ports capturing most of the cross-channel and international trade are Warrenton, in the south-east of the province, and Larne, half an hour's drive from Belfast.

A £4m investment at Warrenton has paid in much greater traffic in containers and general cargo and it appears that more space will be needed there to meet future demand.

Much attention has been paid to transport costs to and from the province, mainly because of price rises brought about by steep oil price increases. The Northern Ireland Chamber of Commerce, in a recent survey, recognized freight transport costs as a worrying issue.

It found that the province was not bearing an unusually heavy burden of costs overall, in comparison to other peripheral areas of the United Kingdom. But it said that cross-channel costs

## Buses on active service

on their own gave cause for concern.

A recent boost to freight services has come from British Airways Cargo. Mr Max Walker, its Northern Ireland manager, has found a healthy response to its handling of the smaller and more vulnerable consignments which manufacturers want to move in a hurry.

Evening postlocking flights of a Trident aircraft from Belfast to Glasgow are now used as a cargo jet service. Its introduction has caused an immediate increase in capacity of 40,000 kg a week between Belfast and the rest of the United Kingdom.

A new route to North America, through Manchester airport and using an overnight road service, is now open to exporters. Cargo is carried on a recently introduced 747 aircraft. Freight loaded in Belfast can now be put on pallets and left undisturbed until it reaches its overseas destination.

For Ulster people who want to travel to Britain by the only speedy way, air fares are a sore point. British Airways has recently been given permission to raise the Belfast-Heathrow return to £60, £1 dearer than Laker's London to New York one-way Skytrain ticket.

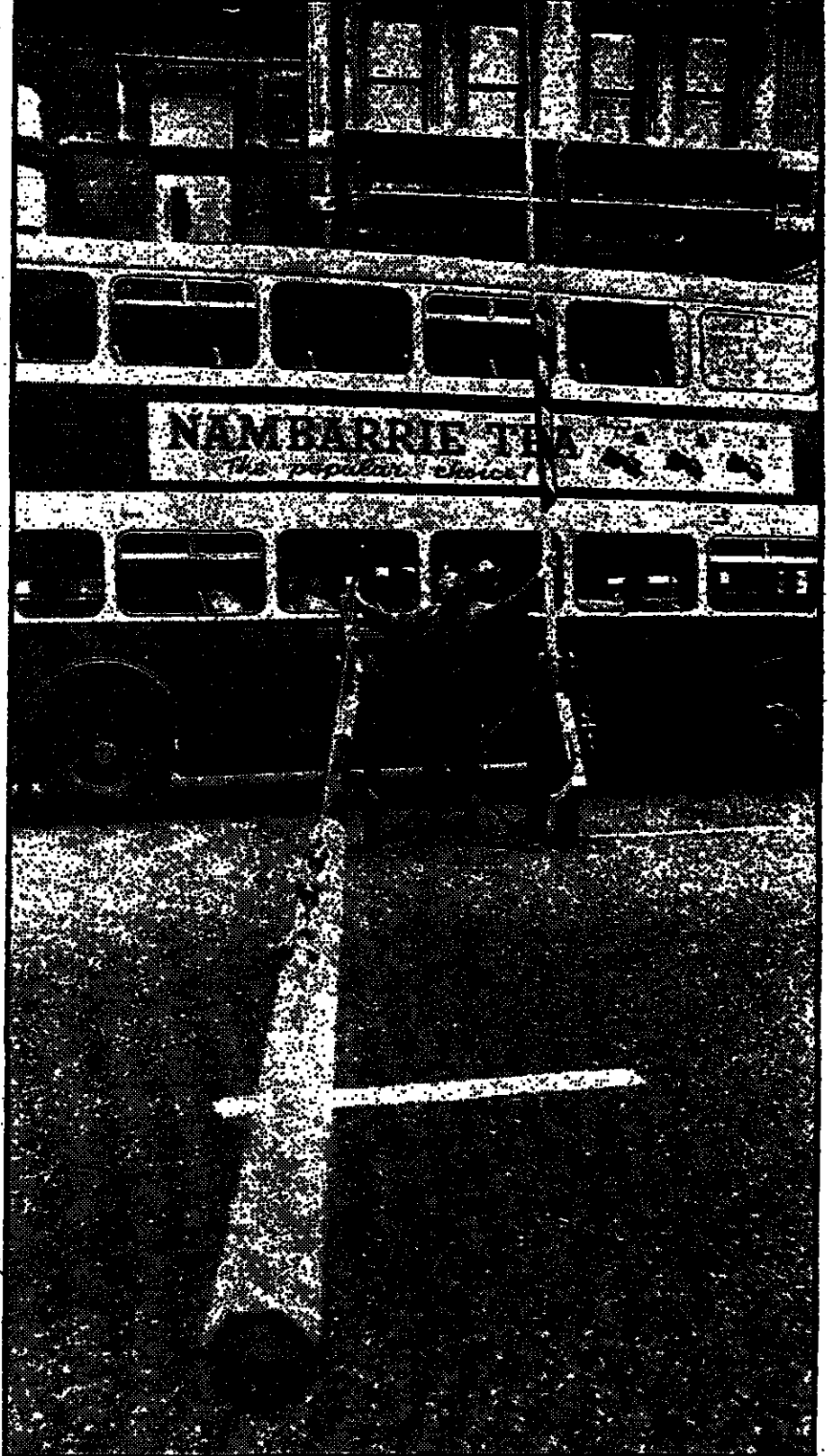
The introduction in April of a two-hourly shuttle service on the Heathrow route, on the same basis as the Glasgow and Edinburgh shuttles, was a bold step by British Airways in the face of declining numbers of passengers.

But because of the Heathrow engineers' strike and later the action by air traffic control authorities, as well as a reduction in the Trident III fleet, because of repairs to cracked wings, the service has had little opportunity to prove itself.

In the two months it did fly without trouble, British Airways says the number of passengers rose by 10 per cent.

An increasing share of the London market is going to the rival British Midland Airways which now has a cheaper DC9 jet service to Gatwick. The competition on that route between the two capitals should help to keep both airlines alert, but it cannot, unfortunately, reduce the cost to the public.

The author is industrial correspondent, Belfast Telegraph.



Barrier in Royal Avenue, Belfast. Buses are faced with hard economic times and frequent contact with terrorists.

## Life-saving measure would be an imposition

by Marcel Berlins

The recent announcement that a law making the wearing of seat belts compulsory in Northern Ireland was to be introduced did not meet with the welcome that might have been expected for a potentially life-saving measure for the region with the second highest motorway death rate in Western Europe.

Much of the adverse comment was based on the apparent paradox that a law which has consistently failed to get through Westminster can, according to its critics, be "imposed" on Northern Ireland. At the root of that objection is the process by which laws are now made for the province.

Since the British Government assumed direct rule after the collapse of the power-sharing executive in May, 1974, laws affecting Northern Ireland which used to be passed by Stormont are now made by Order in Council in Westminster. That procedure is widely unpopular in Northern Ireland itself, on the grounds that it gives little

opportunity for debate, and allows the British Government to make whatever laws it wants for the province, however unpopular they may be. That reasoning, although exaggerated and to some extent misguided, is prevalent.

The anger at the Government's alleged forcing of seat-belt legislation on Northern Ireland is the opposite of the usual form of complaint. More often, the gripe is not so much that laws are imposed, but that insufficient laws are made, and that beneficial measures applying to the rest of the United Kingdom do not cover Northern Ireland, or are made to do so only years later. "The laws we don't want are pushed on to us and those we do want reach us", a Belfast lawyer commented wryly.

Not all Northern Ireland laws are made by Orders in Council. Many Acts of Parliament passed in the normal way at Westminster apply to the province. Other laws relating specifically to Northern Ireland are debated in the House of Commons for example last year's Northern Ireland Fair Employment (Northern Ireland) Act.

Orders in Council are used to make laws in those areas where Stormont would have passed them, and many subjects were in any case not transferred to Stormont by the 1973 Northern Ireland Constitution Act (including defence, taxation, administration of justice, criminal law, immigration, and many others).

Criticism that the Government can impose laws on Northern Ireland is only true to the extent that with a parliamentary majority, it can do so for the whole of the United Kingdom. There may not be the full and open debate which Stormont used to provide, but there is still considerable opportunity for consultation and for the people of the province to make their views known.

First, a proposal for a draft order is drawn up and circulated to all the political parties of Northern Ireland. On important issues, debate takes place in the Commons bodies there, and to all the organisations with special interest in the subject. It is also publicized in the local press. Comments and reactions are invited, usually within a month, but longer for more complex proposals.

The proposal, and all reaction to it, is then debated by the Northern Ireland Committee of the House of Commons, made up of all 12 Northern Ireland MPs (who always attend meetings) and 20 from the other parties (who rarely do). The committee then recommends what amendments it thinks appropriate to the Northern Ireland Office, which then prepares the draft Order.

It has long been a source of frustration (even during the period of Stormont's existence) to many people in Northern Ireland that the radical reforms of the divorce laws for England and Wales, introduced in 1969, were never applied to Northern Ireland. The reasons had to do with the particular religious pressures in the province, and not to any shortcomings in the legislative procedures.

Last year, Northern Ireland's Standing Advisory Committee on Human Rights was asked to report on the desirability of extending divorce reform there, and, at the same time, to give its opinion on whether the more liberal laws of homosexuality which apply in England could not also be extended

to Northern Ireland. In July this year, the Committee answered affirmatively on both issues, and proposals on both subjects are now in preparation.

It is true that there is a considerable time lag between a law being passed for England, and an Order in similar terms being made for Northern Ireland. It may be as much as two years. It is also true that the Northern Ireland Office sometimes takes a great deal of persuading that certain measures are desirable and ought to be made law. It is also not entirely satisfactory that debates on Northern Ireland Orders take place late in the evening, are limited in time, and are frequently exceptionally poorly attended.

All that does not justify the criticism that Northern Ireland is almost forgotten when laws about subjects other than terrorism are involved. Another comment accurately: "It's not that we're being totally neglected. They just take a long time getting round to us."

The author is Legal Correspondent, The Times.

by John Roper

In the past eight years the Royal Victoria Hospital, Belfast, has had many honourable mentions in newspapers and on radio and television. Thousands of words have been written about how, as a teaching hospital happening to lie in one of the battle-grounds of Northern Ireland violence, its accident and casualty department has met and treated the victims of bombs, fires and guns.

It is not as well known that the members of its dedicated staff have, from skill and knowledge gained by hard experience, contributed thousands of words to medical, scientific and other journals to the benefit of what has become known as disaster planning.

The knowledge gained at the hospital about the results of violence, the differences in wounds and injuries caused, for example, by low and high velocity weapons; between those to victims of bomb blast compared with injuries in high-speed motor accidents; about the psychological problems and the

suffering which follows the terrorist attack, is unparalleled in knowledge. It also includes knowledge of how to treat patients who have been tarred and feathered.

There are two categories of skill at the Royal Victoria. First, medical knowledge about the treatment of unusual injuries. Second, about the organization needed to deal effectively with large numbers of casualties often suffering from injuries not often seen in a hospital casualty department.

Between 1970 and 1975 30 papers on traumatic surgery were written by 17 doctors and published in medical journals. Two years ago the British Medical Journal produced a booklet, *Surgery of Violence*, which Sir Ian Fraser, the doyen of surgery in Northern Ireland, said represented just a little of the work done by the Royal Victoria Hospital doctors.

Much of the success achieved in dealing with casualties at the Royal Victoria is due to good organization. Dr William Rutherford, the consultant casualty surgeon, has addressed conferences on disaster planning in this country, Spain, Holland and Germany.

In the early days of the trouble in Northern Ireland it was quickly found that there must be strict control of volunteers who immediately wanted to help as large numbers of casualties began arriving. "Our central method was to get the right chiefs into position quickly," Dr Rutherford said. "If too many people turned up it was difficult but we had to tell them to go away."

The command structure which has resulted, senior doctors, nurses and administrators working with Dr Rutherford, has found that there is great value in sticking to routine working under stress, it was found people tended without think-

ing to do the same thing that they did every day.

If a disaster plan was drawn up with this in mind, it was likely to go smoothly. The more often procedures departed from daily routine, the more mistakes were likely: for instance, labels tied to patients' wrists were likely to cause more confusion, then help.

Sorting out patients on arrival had shown the benefit of a weeping room for the emotionally shocked but uninjured which should be well away from the mainstream of patients. It was useful to have a senior doctor to screen requests for X-rays, as that department tended to become a bottleneck when large numbers of injured patients arrived.

Documentation was of vital importance because safe blood transfusion depended on it. The hospital's routine case record was five sheets thick, made on self-copying paper, useful in a disaster.

Dr Rutherford says that he has read accounts of disaster rehearsals, with people lying on a football field pretending to be victims. He questioned their value because in a real disaster the main difficulty was the great stress under which everyone had to work. This was impossible to reproduce. But features of a hospital's disaster drill could be rehearsed and the most important was the call up of doctors, nurses and administrators. Other sections of

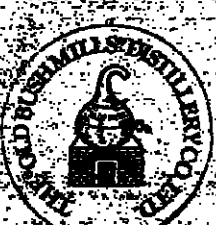
the plan which could be regularly rehearsed with advantage were preparation of lists of patients as for a disaster, and the re-routing of patients so they left a department by one door only.

It is Dr Rutherford's personal conviction that while coordination has been achieved within hospitals much remains to be done outside them. No one in Britain laid the single responsibility for making plans for a disaster. But in his view it was essential to have someone in charge, seeing that each separate service was doing its part in preparing plans.

The author is Health Services Correspondent, The Times.



## 'Old Bushmills' Whiskey



Handwritten signature or mark at the bottom of the page.



## by John Chartres

been deterred from coming are the fishermen. It would obviously take more than a bomb or two to keep them away from the sort of hauls they can get in waters like the Erne.

The Northern Ireland Tourist Board has always recognized the dangers of minimizing the risks and has adopted a realistic policy "for the duration". It does not attempt any direct con-

Such an expansion will not be easy to achieve. A significant paragraph in the tourist board's latest report says: "It is a fundamental fact that Northern Ireland could not reap the full tourist benefits from an improvement in the civil situa-

stately homes of special charm. The large city hotels in Belfast and Londonderry have suffered badly in the troubles, with five being lost through bomb damage or sheer lack of business.

Last year the Department of Commerce paid out nearly £760,000 in grants for "tourist amenity" schemes compared with £314,000 in 1975 and only £187,000 in 1974—figures which indicate

One of two boats spotted the potential at about the same time, oddly enough including a retired English naval officer and a time-expired British Army sergeant. Now there are six hire cruiser firms operating a fleet of 85 vessels (including Mr Ewart's own, and the area has justifiably become world famous for both coarse and game fishing.

Motor boat cruising on the

to drive the somewhat tortuous but scenically beautiful route to Loch Ryan in south-west Scotland, and make the two-hour sea crossing on either a British Rail Sealink or a Townsend ferry. Both services are efficient, run with the minimum of fuss and formality and are relatively cheap especially for a family with a car, which is essential if one is to enjoy Northern Ireland.



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**"The heart of Northern Ireland engineering"**

## by David Watson

It was not until 1956 that the first redevelopment areas were marked out in Belfast, although today's planners believe progress was slow. In 1963 a study of population trends was carried out by Sir Robert Matthew, a leading United Kingdom planning consultant, whose recommendation that a building stopline should be drawn around Belfast was

Sir Robert's investigation of a Belfast that was then flourishing forecast that the city's half-million population would rise to 700,000 by 1981 unless people were encouraged to move to growth centres. In 1971 the population almost hit that figure, but has declined to what is

abandoned houses, made all the worse because, apart from the middle class, most people live in sectarian areas—and even housing executive estates are either Protestant or Catholic. Only 48 per cent of the city's 123,000 houses are considered sound.

amenities such as bathrooms and lavatories, and enough bedroom and kitchen space. Now, many of these homes have been taken over by the housing executive, awaiting redevelopment or rehabilitation, and their rents have been frozen—often at about only 50p a week—until something is done. Seen the

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**BOMBS, BRUTAL  
BULLETS—THE  
PICTURE OF NO  
IRELAND! BUT  
ONE SIDE OF THE**

## by Malcolm Brodie

Club teams such as PSV Eindhoven, Liverpool, Southampton, Juventus, Ajax, Parizan, Belgrade, Standard Liege, and Feyenoord have delighted the Northern Ireland spectator with their skill, artistry and clamour

It has been an amazing feat. During three years of capital works worth £6m have been completed, capital grants paid by the Department of Education rose

television viewing with their concentration on violence must be astonished when he finds that an estimated 50,000 adults alone are affiliated to sports organizations, with 80 governing bodies controlling it all. The

The author is sports editor, Belfast Telegraph.

scheme for the annual re-inspection of all accommodation and catering establishments, this system is also in force. Price is therefore instantly available for enquiries, and to provide planning and quality control.

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EXAMPLE, DID YOU KNOW  
THAT.....**

★ Since our troubles began in 1969, 2.4 million people have travelled between Britain and Northern Ireland each year, and that some 600,000 of these journeys were made by bona fide visitors who stayed with us for more than 24 hours ! We have also welcomed a further 150,000 staying visitors each year from the Irish Republic.

★ We are so well connected with Britain. No less than sixteen different air routes link our airport at Aldergrove (16 miles from Belfast) with major cities in the British Isles. Next to London Heathrow, more domestic scheduled air services fly into Aldergrove/Belfast than into any other airport in the U.K. I And we have three modern sea ferry links : Larne/Cairnryan, Larne/Stranraer and Belfast/Liverpool. Last year, these ferries carried 1.3 million passengers, and 193,000 passenger-accompanied cars !

★ Motoring holidays are still a pleasure in Northern Ireland! There can be few other areas in Europe today where you can drive for miles and miles along excellent and scenic roads, without worrying about a press of other vehicles! And camping and caravanning facilities in our superb forest parks and along our beautiful coastline are really first class!

★ Each year we are welcoming increasing numbers of Swiss, Germans, Belgians and Dutch, most of whom claim that they come to us because of the peace and beauty of our countryside and waterways, and the lack of pollution and congestion!

★ We are welcoming increasing numbers of the coarse fishermen of Britain, as a result of the widespread news of great competition successes like the annual Benson & Hedges Fishing Festival, and the continuing evidence that we have perhaps the best coarse fishing waters in Western Europe ! And we have very good game and sea fishing too !

\* For many years we have operated a statutory scheme for the annual registration and inspection of all accommodation and catering establishments, and a grading system is also in force. Precise information is therefore instantly available to answer enquiries, and to provide a basis for accurate planning and quality control.

We operate continuous surveys of passenger movements, domestic tourism and hotel occupancy, which give comprehensive and up-to-date statistics on travel and tourism.

★ During the six months season last year, average room occupancy in hotels was 35%, and in guest houses was 39%.

★ Northern Ireland would welcome investment in leisure facilities and new accommodation of all types. The following figures provide an indication of how we can help private investors (the rates of grant given are approximate—some are under review) :—

<b>HOTELS</b>	up to 50% per bedroom unit
<b>GUEST HOUSES</b>	up to 50% per bedroom unit
<b>SELF-CATERING UNITS</b>	up to 50% per 4-bed. unit
<b>FARMHOUSES</b>	up to 33½% for alterations and improvements
<b>HIRE CRUISERS</b>	up to 33½% for boats and bases
<b>SEA ANGLING BOATS</b>	up to 40% for boats and bases

NITB may also give discretionary grants on other private enterprise projects which contribute to the overall tourist attractions of the province.

AS VIOLENCE DIES DOWN,  
TOURISM WILL RECOVER. THE  
POTENTIAL FOR GROWTH IN THE  
TOURIST INDUSTRY IN NORTHERN  
IRELAND IS EXCELLENT.

For information about investment grants for tourist projects in Northern Ireland write to:—

CHIEF EXECUTIVE,  
NORTHERN IRELAND TOURIST BOARD,  
RIVER HOUSE,  
48 HIGH STREET,  
BELFAST BT1 2DS.



# BIGGER OPPORTUNITIES FOR BRITISH BUSINESSMEN IN NORTHERN IRELAND.

On August 1 this year Roy Mason, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, announced new economic measures to encourage manufacturing and service industries to set up and expand in the Province.

The immediate benefits are a massive subsidy to reduce the cost of electricity, substantial increases in grants for building and equipping factories and generous financial aid for research and development work. Other existing grants and incentives have also been made more attractive.

## BIGGER GRANTS FOR BUILDING

One of the most attractive incentives in Northern Ireland has been the building grants. At between 30% and 40%, according to area, they've been considerably higher than in any other UK region.

Now they are even further ahead. The minimum rate, without employment conditions, remains at 30% but the upper limit on the selective assistance rate has been increased to 50%.

## LONGER RENT-FREE PERIODS FOR FACTORIES

For companies seeking to lease ready-built factories, Northern Ireland has been able to offer a choice free of rent for the first three years.

Now the rent-free period is extended to five years, which should allow tenants to become firmly established before having to cost rental against profitability.

## BIGGER GRANTS FOR PLANT

Selective assistance grants for plant and machinery have also been running at between 30% and 40%. These, too, are now increased up to 50% with the minimum rate, with employment conditions, being maintained at 30%.

So, when the full value of tax concessions is taken into consideration, it can mean that the Government contributes up to 99.4% of initial plant costs.

## UP TO £250,000 FOR R&D WORK

For the first time in Northern Ireland, grants are directly available for research and development work.

Similar to the grants already mentioned, they are offered at the new high rate of 40% to 50%. The limit for any one project is £250,000.

R&D grants can be applied for irrespective of whether or not the applicant has received other forms of grant assistance from Government here.

## GREATER INTEREST RELIEF

For companies raising money from other than Government sources, Government assistance towards financing costs has been increased. The maximum period for the highest rate of Interest Relief Grant has gone up from two to three years and can still be followed by four years at 3% a year.

## CONTINUED ASSISTANCE TOWARDS START-UP AND RUNNING COSTS

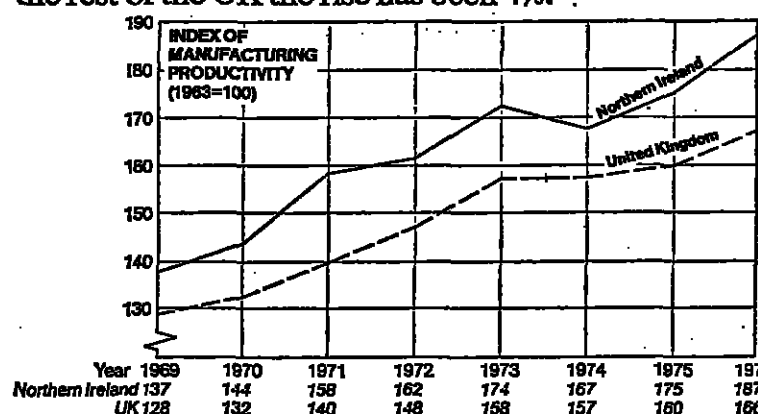
Northern Ireland is now the *only* region of the United Kingdom which provides assistance towards start up costs; additional grants designed to provide new projects with a substantial inflow of revenue during the build-up period — individually negotiated on the basis of total capital requirements for each new project. Northern Ireland is now also the *only*

region of the United Kingdom where manufacturers continue to be paid a Selective Employment Premium of £2 per week per adult worker and £1.20 per week per worker under 18 years of age.

## HIGHER PRODUCTIVITY

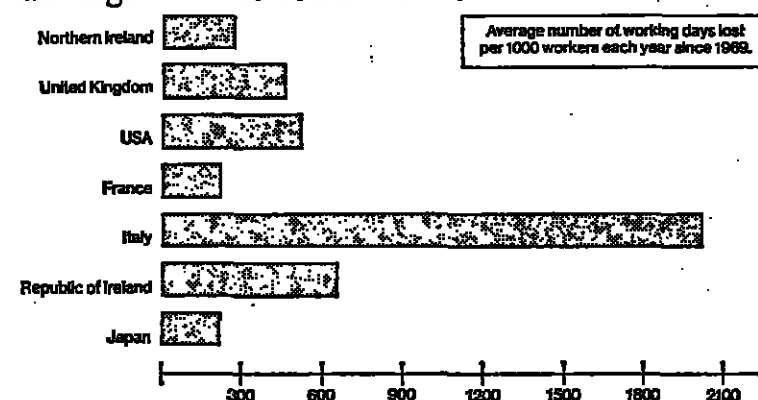
Since 1969 productivity has risen by 37% compared to the rest of the UK's 30%. See graph below.

Manufacturing output has risen by 14% while in the rest of the UK the rise has been 4%.



## FEWER STRIKES

Northern Ireland has always had a good industrial relations record, as the bar chart below illustrates. This high standard continues to be maintained.



## HOW GREAT IS THE RISK?

It's only natural for anyone coming to Northern Ireland to want to assess the risk.

Perhaps the simplest way to put this in perspective is to look at one straightforward comparison. The mortality rate due to the troubles in Northern Ireland from 1969 until end June of this year averaged 14 (civilian, Army and local security forces) per 100,000 of the population. This rate exactly equals Great Britain's fatal road accident rate which is currently running at 14 per 100,000. Equivalent rates on the Continent in 1975 were Sweden 15.3, France 23.5, the Netherlands 23.8, Italy 25.9 and West Germany 29.9.

The risk to security of investment is correspondingly low. Legislation in Northern Ireland provides for compensation for damage caused by malicious acts. This compensation takes account of the depreciated value of fixed assets before damage,

plus consequential loss of business profits. Subject to reinstatement of employment, compensation at full replacement value is payable on fixed assets — plus consequential loss.

## CAN YOU REALLY AFFORD TO IGNORE NORTHERN IRELAND?

Manufacturers who in the past have tended to omit Northern Ireland from their location planning on grounds of isolation or of risk might now question whether, in fairness to their shareholders, they can any longer afford to do so. Particularly in view of the fact that industrial consumers in the Province are to enjoy cheaper electricity.

In recent years huge investment in plant and the oil price explosion forced the cost of electricity up at a higher rate in Northern Ireland than in Great Britain.

To reduce industrial tariffs the Government proposes to write off the majority of the Electricity Service's debt to the Government Loans Fund and to provide a grant of some £100 million, spread over the next five years. This should bring the cost of electricity down to the level of other UK Development Areas.

You won't find any other area within the EEC — let alone any other region in the UK — offering such a wide and generous range of industrial benefits together with the environment and infrastructure to get the most out of them.

So can you really afford to ignore the opportunities we offer? Complete the coupon below and learn the facts at first hand.

To: Director of Industrial Development, (Room 410), T3/11/77  
Northern Ireland Department of Commerce, Chichester House,  
64 Chichester Street, Belfast, BT1 4JX, Northern Ireland.  
Tel: Belfast 34488, Ext. 435.  
Please send me further details on the opportunities for  
Industrial Expansion in Northern Ireland.

Name

Company

Position in Company

Address

Type of business

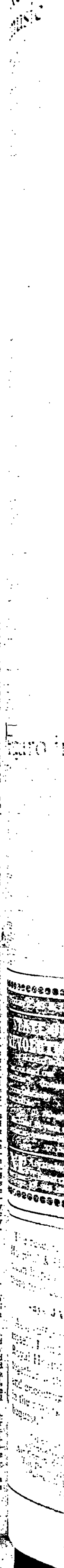
**NORTHERN IRELAND  
ASK ANY BUSINESSMAN WHO'S ALREADY HERE.**

مکملہ ۱۱/۱۱/۷۷























Survey explodes some of the myths about 'British sickness' and reveals willingness to invest

## Nordic groups see bright future for UK industry

By Peter Hill  
Scandinavian companies, so often the test bed of social democracy and labour relations advances, yesterday exploded some of the myths about British industry, and gave the Government's inward investment policies a useful boost.

A survey among about 30 British subsidiaries of Nordic companies revealed a surprising degree of confidence in the future of the British economy, and an equally surprising amount of contentment about operations in Britain to the extent that they would recommend increased investment by Nordic countries in the United Kingdom.

The survey, commissioned by the

Nordic Bank and carried out by Research Services, showed that the British business environment was considered by most of the executives questioned to compare favourably with conditions in the Nordic area in almost every respect, apart from productivity.

But the survey revealed that although average total hourly costs of labour in parts of Scandinavia are as much as 2.5 times as high as in Britain, productivity in a significant number of United Kingdom subsidiaries was as high—or even higher—than in the parent company, and was most commonly no more than 15-20 per cent lower.

Very few of those companies covered by the survey—ranging from those

employing only about a score of workers to those employing about 1,400—thought that Nordic companies offered a better environment in terms of absenteeism, days lost through industrial action, or overall labour relations.

One third of the companies interviewed in fact considered their labour relations better here. Of the 30 companies covered by the survey, 25 claimed to have lost no days at all through industrial action. Of the remainder, one company put the loss at less than five days per year and the others reckoned to have lost between a half and a full day.

About half of the companies interviewed said that there was lower productivity in the United Kingdom—

although three operating in special development areas reported that productivity was higher—and overall it appears that the lower costs more than compensate for the somewhat lower levels of productivity.

Principal complaints unearthed by the researchers related to delivery problems and fluctuating exchange rates while, encouragingly, the Bank of England's restrictions on sterling finance do not appear to have been a significant disincentive.

All this was music to the ears of Mr Alan Williams, Minister of State for Industry, who said that the results provided "convincing evidence of the success of Scandinavian companies operating in Britain."

## Strong reaction against Whitehall plan to limit monopoly advertising

By Patricia Tisdall  
"Strictest objections" to Government proposals to give the Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection new powers to curb advertising spending by monopoly holders have been lodged by the Incorporated Society of British Advertisers.

In comments which have been circulated to members this week, the society describes the plan as "draconian" and "illogical".

The proposal is part of a series of 18 amendments which the Department of Prices and Consumer Protection wants to make to the Fair Trading and Restrictive Trade Practices Acts during the next parliamentary session.

It aims to enable the Secretary of State to restrict advertising or other promotional expenditure if the Monopolies Commission reports adversely on this aspect of a company's activities.

Advertisers argue that, apart from practical difficulties, control would increase costs to the consumer and reduce consumer choice. Manufacturers, they say, would be bound to look for other less efficient ways of selling their products.

The society is also expected to be registered by individual member companies. These include Unilever, which, when a proposal to restrict advertising of detergents by its Lever Bros subsidiary was raised in a Monopolies Commission report in 1966, threatened to fight the then Board of Trade in the courts and in Parliament.

In that report, the Commission recommended that the company should cut their selling costs by 40 per cent. It also urged the Board of Trade to consider introducing some form of automatic sanction that would discourage excessive selling expenditure.

A head-on clash between the soap companies and the Government was eventually avoided by a compromise. The agreement reached in 1967 was that Lever Bros and Procter & Gamble each would market one soap powder and two detergents at prices 20 per cent below those of their regular brands.

The Monopolies Commission's most recent comments about advertising are contained in its report on cat and dog

foods published last July. It concluded that the present scale of advertising by Pedigree Pet Foods and Spillers does not operate and may not be expected to operate against the public interest.

But in general it considered that the difficulties of smaller suppliers seeking to increase their sales, or of entrants to the market, are increased by the cost of national advertising which bears more heavily on them than on a supplier with a large share of the market.

Advertisers say that there is "no justification" for singling out advertising and promotional expenditure as being in some way "potentially harmful and deserving of control".

They maintain that there are no objective criteria which can be used by the Government to arrive at "proper" levels of expenditure in any particular case, adding that any control "would inevitably be arbitrary, distorting the whole marketing process and competitive relationships".

Other objections are that there would be severe practical difficulties in the enforcement of controlled advertising.

## Standards of NRDC 'will not be lowered'

By Kenneth Owen

The Government-backed National Research Development Corporation, severely criticized a year ago by the Commons Select Committee on Science and Technology, "does not intend to lower its standards to appease its critics".

This is stated by Lord Schon, chairman, and Mr William Makinson, managing director, in the corporation's annual report for 1976-77, which is being published today.

Changes in the role of the NRDC proposed by the Select Committee appeared to be based in part on a number of misunderstandings, the chairman and managing director say.

Accusations of "scepticism and indifference" are hard to counter. The corporation would hope to put on a number of new projects, but "it is sometimes difficult to leave these impressions with those, unfortunately, the majority, whose proposals one has had to turn down".

Despite a high rejection rate, Lord Schon and Mr Makinson say, only about 20 per cent of the proposals accepted by the corporation match up to the original expectations.

After reaffirming their intention not to lower their standards, they continue: "We certainly accept a responsibility to make our services better known to our potential clients, whether they be individuals, public bodies, universities or industrial firms, so that both the number and quality of opportunities for participation may be increased."

Both royalties from licences and fees from joint ventures increased significantly during the year, the report discloses, leading to a rise in the surplus before tax to more than £10m.

The corporation's cash reserves also have continued to grow, despite the early repayment of government loans, and at the end of the financial year stood at more than £14m.

The amount authorized for investment in joint ventures with industry was £4.81m (compared with £5.55m the previous year), and the actual development expenditure during the year was £2.35m (compared with £2.79m).

Leases received from joint ventures increased substantially, from £1.2m to £2.15m, and the corporation received £1.63m from the sale of shares in companies.

Total number of current joint ventures with industry rose from 158 in 1975-76 to 185 in 1976-77, and an overall total of £23.17m had been authorized.

Companies with which the corporation set up new development projects during the year included Rapid Data Systems International (addressing machines); Datron Electronics (digital voltmeters and instruments); CRD/Freeman Fox & Partners (project planning system); Rivers Machinery (machining centre for window and door frames); Cleanstone Company (Bradford) (cleaning equipment); and Cambridge Instrument Company (ultrasonic echo cardiograph).

Reporting to the Council of Ministers in Luxembourg last week, Mr Clinton Davis had urged that there was no point in talking tough to the Soviet Union without being prepared to act from strength.

Several European countries, including Britain already had power to regulate tax and even shut out Soviet ships from their ports, and there was now a much greater awareness of the seriousness of Russian rate cutting and expansion as a threat to free world shipping and trade.

Time was not on the West's side, Mr Clinton Davis said, and he hoped the EEC Council of Ministers would be ready for more positive action by early next year.

## Little hope of import controls for textiles

By Paul Routledge  
Labour Editor

Mr Callaghan yesterday admitted that the Gatt multilateral agreement "had not been an entirely satisfactory arrangement", but held out little hope of import controls to textile workers anxious about their jobs.

In response to a petition presented by the Amalgamated Textile Workers Union, the Prime Minister argued that the Government had already taken "a very considerable amount of action" to limit low-cost imports.

He added: "At the same time, we are determined to strengthen the network of protective measures by securing tougher bilateral agreements with supplying countries."

In his letter to Mr Jack Brown, general secretary of the ATWU, Mr Callaghan recounted said already given to the textile industry but agreed that the Gatt multilateral agreement had not worked as effectively as it might. The economic recession had shown up its inherent inadequacies—particularly high minimum growth rates.

"And the EEC slowness in negotiating bilateral restraint agreements led to an unprecedented upsurge in imports from some suppliers," he said. "We have recognized this, and have taken the lead within the EEC, with great determination, to make sure that there are tougher arrangements next year to succeed those set up under the present multilateral agreement."

The Prime Minister made no specific reference to the main demand put forward in the textile workers' petition—for immediate import controls that would safeguard the industry until the negotiation of these "tougher arrangements" in mid-1978.

The petition, a "spontaneous shop floor reaction" to the present difficulties, asked Mr Callaghan "to take action without delay to limit the import of cheap textiles into the United Kingdom and save the jobs of textile workers."

Mr Brown said the crisis was now bordering on desperation with extensive short-time working taking place and mill closures being announced with unacceptable regularity.

The textile workers seek from the Government a restoration of the public expenditure cuts leading to a commitment on public purchasing that will direct ministries and state agencies to "buy British, not cheapest". Chief among these agencies are the Ministry of Defence, the Health Service, the Home Office, and local authorities.

Wage levels in the industry vary from £35 a week to £85 depending on the job and shift payments, and "several thousand" jobs are at stake between now and mid-1978, according to the union. Companies are currently being proposed to the temporary employment subsidy

## Retailers of clothing optimistic

By Our Industrial Correspondent

Britain's clothing and textile industries are showing greater optimism about the immediate future with improvements expected in output and a higher level of orders both from the United Kingdom and overseas.

This was the principal finding of a joint survey conducted by the CBI and the National Economic Development Office in the second of a series of quarterly surveys designed to provide a more accurate picture of the state of activity in the textile and clothing sectors.

Retailers appear to be more optimistic about general conditions of trade than the textile manufacturers, and retail outlets are markedly more optimistic about demand in the immediate future for virtually every category of clothing.

Also apparent to be flowing through the pipeline fairly freely, and if sales continue to match or improve on retail expectations there could be above average levels of stock-building.

According to the survey the textile and clothing industry generally appears to be less pessimistic than in the last survey, although there was greater optimism among garment producers than in the spinning and weaving sector. Below capacity working is widespread while the outlook for employment, according to the survey, is no brighter.

## West urged to resist Soviet shipping expansion

By Michael Bailly

The West must step up its resistance to Soviet shipping expansion, Mr Clinton Davis, Under-Secretary of State for Trade, said yesterday.

He said that on his recent visit to Moscow he found a clear assessment on the part of the Russians that the West lacked the resolve to apply sanctions in its own defence.

Mr Clinton Davis was speaking at a press briefing in London before a meeting with ship-owners and maritime unions.

Moscow was, therefore, clearly intending to accentuate the differences within the EEC and other Western countries, and he urged them to exploit them to its own advantage.

## Superports may reduce tanker surplus

By Our Technology Correspondent

Large organizations should operate in moderate-sized units to improve industrial relations and productivity, Sir Peter Mansfield, former chairman of the British Aircraft Corporation, said in London last night.

Giving his inaugural address as chairman of Council of the Royal Society of Arts, Sir Peter said that an increase of only 5 per cent in output from the manufacturing labour force of 7.3 million people (about 30 per cent of the total employed labour force of 24.7 million) would improve Britain's annual export/import balance by about £5,500m a year—and transform our economic situation.

Assuming that the United Kingdom and the leading industrial nations within the European Community were level-pegging in terms of manufacturing output per employee in 1960 (and this assumption was probably favourable to the United Kingdom), figures showed that Britain had increased this specific output by about 58 per cent, while the five leading EEC countries had almost doubled theirs.

In other words, Britain had fallen behind in manufacturing output by about one third. This disparity was one reason for Britain's relatively high rates

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Fixing level of price control safeguards

From the Managing Director of The British Aluminium Company

Sir, As chairman of the CBI prices negotiating team I was closely involved in the discussions with the Government on the price control safeguards, and I should like to comment on Derek Harris's article of October 31.

He seems to be suggesting that the safeguards have been set at too high a level, and that this is going to prevent the Price Commission from checking companies who seek to improve their margins in a more affluent market.

Mr Harris is wrong in both respects, and I would remind him of the following points:

1 Compared to the safeguards available under the old price code, the new interim safeguard is on average only two-thirds the level of the old one, and the principal safeguard is only one-half the old level. These facts were not disputed by the Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection during his discussions with the CBI.

2 By definition the safeguards cannot protect a company which is trying to increase its margin beyond the level of the base period. The interim safeguard during the year was £2.35m (compared with £2.79m).

Leases received from joint ventures increased substantially, from £1.2m to £2.15m, and the corporation received £1.63m from the sale of shares in companies.

Total number of current joint ventures with industry rose from 158 in 1975-76 to 185 in 1976-77, and an overall total of £23.17m had been authorized.

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Several European countries, including Britain already had power to regulate tax and even shut out Soviet ships from their ports, and there was now a much greater awareness of the seriousness of Russian rate cutting and expansion as a threat to free world shipping and trade.

Time was not on the West's side, Mr Clinton Davis said, and he hoped the EEC Council of Ministers would be ready for more positive action by early next year.

His third point is that, because we treat all passenger miles the same, we may unwittingly encourage people with low values of time whose journeys are not urgent, to travel at times when they impose delays on people whose time is more valuable, and thereby cause a net loss of community benefit.

I cannot see a significant effect in any case on price incentives for such people to travel off-peak, based on both common sense and a sound marketing policy, help to make sure it is not.

Flounders proposes a remedy of monitoring the level of service provided. While I cannot see the relevance of this to his specific criticisms, I certainly agree it is important for us to measure and monitor the service quality as perceived by the passenger. We already do so for the bus service.

I am surprised John Argenti (November 1) makes such heavy weather of the provision of the corporate objectives of "maximizing passenger miles subject to meeting a budget constraint". If he is looking for the sort of overall—and somewhat woolly—objective which characterizes the aim of so many public corporate bodies, he need look no further than the Transport (London) Act 1963, which gives as our purpose "to provide, or secure the provision of, such public passenger transport services as best meets the needs for the time being of Greater London".

The intention of our corporate aims is to spend out in my opinion on October 3 is to give the board and management of London Transport a usable, practical decision criterion in the face of otherwise conflicting objectives of financial targets and a public service obligation. If he can give me a better, equally practical decision criterion, I shall be glad to know it.

Yours sincerely,  
D. A. QUARMBY,  
Chairman, London Transport,  
55 Broadway,  
London, SW1H 0BD.  
October 31.

## Organization of product design

From Mr M. J. Neale

Sir, May I add some comments to try to tie together some of the excellent points made by Lord Brown on the organization of product design (October 10) and the state of correspondence from university professors stimulated by Mr Littlewood's letter (October 19).

Lord Brown's main point, that product design should be a separate but coordinating activity in all manufacturing companies. He shows that responsibility for it should not be combined with that for manufacturing because of the differences in the time scale of many of the problems in these two areas.

It is also essential to keep product design separated from the sales function because no essential stimuli to the design of improved products are:

(a) An understanding of how the present product fails in service.

(b) A recognition of those areas in which it is at present unable to meet the needs of the market.

The acceptance that these two situations exist is quite contrary to the philosophy of sales department, which need to operate in an ambience of product confidence in order to be effective and which cannot therefore, provide at the same time a suitable environment for the design and development of improved products.

The principle of obtaining clear understanding of product performance can also be given lead to possible methods of introducing engineering design to university students. For example, possible final year undergraduate projects could be based on investigating a way in which the performance of various machines, as present manufactured, vary with size and speed, and actually determines these limits.

When following this approach students will discover that application of knowledge to understanding of machines involves the use of material from many different academic disciplines. They should therefore, be able to see that the fundamental knowledge applied to design is not just a collection of facts while being an essential foundation for engineering design, but taught to them under a subject headings which are technical, rather than for application.

The effective application of knowledge requires, firstly, definition of the practical problem and, secondly, the focus on that problem of the various methods of analysis which are applicable to it. This is an approach which, for this reason, is described by academics as multi-disciplinary.

These approaches can be seen in an understanding of engineering science in which the use of principles in engineering design and is surely the limit to design teaching can go to university, since it can stimulate the best industrial student. Engineering design as such, can only be learned by experience in industry where all the practical strains of allowable cost, ferred methods of manufacturing, and the general organizational pattern of the company can be taken into account once again it is by Lord Brown.

Yours sincerely,  
M. J. NEALE,  
Director,  
Thomson Neale & Associates,  
Downing Street,  
Farnham,  
Surrey GU9 7PH.  
November 1.

## Freight transport to the Middle East

From Professor P. A. Bromhead

Sir, In the Times of October 28, on freight transport to the Middle East, your Transport Correspondent suggests that "sending loads all that way through such obstacles by road seems nonsensical".

For the traffic to Iran in particular his contention is supported by the facts given: a freight cost of around £200 per ton, an average journey-time of 15 to 18 days; high risk of delay, damage or loss.

Yet in 1974-75—more than 20,000 tons of freight a week are said to have been carried from Europe to Iran by road: each average day 150 lorries, carrying between them a load equal to the capacity of five 600-ton freight railway trains.

Yet there is a railway (continuous but, for two water-crossings) from Europe to Teheran and beyond. Nowhere else in 20,000 words of text does the correspondent mention this. As far as its editors are concerned, the railway seems to be irrelevant. The reader is left to assume that none of this freight is moved by rail, but is not told why this should be so.

It may be that the lack of adequate transit for railway wagons across a water obstacle, the Bosphorus, is currently crippling to through-traffic. But the correspondent mentions in passing and without drawing implications, a plan to overcome this obstacle by a railway tunnel (much cheaper, surely, than the second rail bridge).

The second water obstacle, Lake Van, is now crossed by a rail ferry, capable of being developed to high capacity. Beyond it the 200-mile section of railway line to Tabriz is newly built, and a new high-quality railway line now under construction will soon supplement part of the existing section from Tbilisi to Teheran.

Even now a passenger can travel by train from London to Teheran in seven days, moving at a speed well within the capacity of modern freight trains on adequate track. Why then not, potentially, freight too, if not in seven days then in much less than road's 15?

The same applies to Iraq and Syria (and, potentially, beyond it). As a solution to the existing deficiencies, the correspondent mentions a plan for a new road through Turkey—though University of Bristol.

## Call for smaller units to improve efficiency



Sir Peter Mansfield: "fetish" for mergers blamed.

of inflation compared with other members of the EEC. "It is easy to say that insufficient investment, over-manning and restrictive practices are among the reasons for low output—and so they are."

But I believe that the main cause is a deep-seated, mind born of lack of incentives and a general feeling of ineffectiveness—most of all in the giant organizations.

Many of the problems must be the last to be solved. "A fetish" for mergers in recent years. The result had been "a series of vast and ponderous organizations, many of them blighted by a lack of control and a tendency to seek from employees a stiff conformity with little scope for individual innovation or enterprise."

Thus frustration and indifference replaced enthusiasm and dedication. There were some exceptions in large organizations, but not many.

The subject of human productivity, Sir Peter suggested, was the biggest challenge facing every branch of industry and business today. It was a world problem but was of special concern in Britain.

Though the bulk of large scale production (about 70 per cent of it) was channelled

through a relatively few very large organizations, the majority of employment was in small companies, many of which supplied the large concerns.

The small companies' record for labour relations was excellent, in the main because they were not subject to the same pressures as the large organizations which they supply.

But even they could best be administered in units of moderate size, where good communications in both directions smoothed the way to better industrial relations and hence to improved output.

"The trouble is that many of the largest employers are more centralized than, I believe, is necessary or desirable. They cannot engender in their individual employees that 'sense of purpose' which it is at times to achieve in a repetitive production process—which is the stimulus to real endeavour and so to high output."

An example, he had said, was that some 40 per cent of the United Kingdom market for fractional horse power motors was accounted for by French or West German imports, although there was as much as 20 per cent spare capacity in Britain.

Yesterday Sir Ronald said that there was a significant difference between volume and value figures for the industry and the value figures were considered to be the important ones.

## Builders form a housing directorate

By John Huxley

A housing directorate has been established by the National Federation of Building Trades Employers in a move to broaden its approach to housing matters.

The directorate, which will coordinate work across the whole field of housing policy, is to be headed by Mr Ian Deslandes, director of the House-Builders Federation.

The decision to set up the

view of housing issues, have served to blur the traditional distinction between the private and public house-building sectors and made a more broadly-based approach by the NFBTE to housing matters essential.

The directorate will establish close liaison to be developed between the House-Builders Federation, dealing with the private sector, and the NFBTE's public sector housing and housing areas improvement committees in the public sector.

## Clarification on motors

Sir Ronald McIntosh, director general of the National Economic Development Office, said yesterday that he had made a misleading reference to fractional horse power motors after the Central National Economic Development Council meeting.

He had said that a lot of manufacturing capacity was being misused because it was equipped to produce goods which were not in strong demand.

An example, he had said,

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BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

## Floating and the money supply

Foreign currency reserves rose by just \$3,000m in October and that, one would think, is the end of the massive monthly surpluses we have now become used to—until the Government decides whether to float or not. It should be considered a honey-moon of a new way of life.

Meanwhile, the extent of the increase in the money supply figure adds a little more to the kinds of pressures the authorities were under in coming to their decision to float the pound. Just how much of the inflow—just over £1,700m in sterling terms—will have worked through to the money supply in the month to mid-October remains to be seen.

But the fact that the money supply growth has been kept to under 250m to remain within the upper limit of 13 per cent annual growth certainly adds credence to the view that the October money supply figures will show a substantial "overshoot". On the assumption that this is indeed the case, it could well be that the potential growth allowable in sterling M3 in the

funds of above £400m. Clearly though the group's expansionist policy in the United Kingdom and the United States, will demand cash.

Nevertheless South Africa and gold, are still important to the group; last year gold contributed 26 per cent of group revenue.

In its bid to expand away from these two traditional sources, Cons Gold has found itself facing the dilemma of other international mining houses—depressed base metal prices, political uncertainty in developed countries as well as LDC's savage cost increases in new mining ventures and continual ending currency fluctuations.

Hence the move into the United Kingdom, where ARC has been an outstanding success, and into the United States, where, the recent Hydro Conduit acquisition makes Cons Gold the biggest concrete pipe manufacturer in a fragmented market.

With this issue, Cons Gold is only forecasting a 10 per cent dividend increase, which also upsets the market. That means a 7.9 per cent prospective yield on the ex-rights price of 173p, while the prospective p/e ratio is less than 6.



Mr. Berkeley Hambro, whose chairman is Mr. Jock MacKenzie (above), is through the fire which resulted from its unfortunate European developments in 1972-73, but it has been fairly badly singed in the process. Disposables totalling £32.7m in the first six months, largely in France, but also of properties in Holland, the United States and Canada, will have reduced the loans of £93m in the December balance sheet by a similar amount, cutting exposure to currencies and bringing gearing down from three times to roughly twice shareholders' funds.

Net asset value will have been left nearly intact as most of the extraordinary loss on the sales, amounting to £4.2m, representing the difference between historical cost and sale prices, was allowed for as a provision in the 1976 accounts, but there must be disappointment that a further £1.19m has had to be taken from reserves as a result of the costs of disposals and penalties on the early cancellation of loans.

With luck, that should be the end of the extraordinary losses, and although revenue will not show any great benefits this year, there should be some improvement in the second half, pre-tax profit which was only £300,000 in the half (£558,000) will leap as the interest charge of £4.3m comes down with the borrowings, and although the interim dividend is only maintained at last year's reduced 1.66p, the final could well be restored to earlier levels—the peak payment was equal to 4.95p gross in 1975.

### shake-out in Eurobonds

Eurobond market is still in the middle of a shake-out for perhaps two years. The second half of last month some of price losses seen during the first two months were recovered, but in the past few all those gains have been lost again. The problems, of course, are the weakness of the dollar and the continuing upward in American interest rates, compounded by the fact that the truly multinational public service between the White House and the Federal Reserve Board.

It is the impact on the Eurobond market been by no means as bad as it might have been. There has been some significant against the background of an almost dearth of buying interest, but nothing the avalanche that those with memories of 1974 bear market have feared. Even the unfavourable fundamentals the market is, indeed, holding up better than it has been expected, reinforcing the view that the bond market is now more broadly based, both in terms of dealing capacity and its institutional base, than was the case three years ago. The market may not yet be through the storm, however. The key indicator

is the steepness of the yield curve, since the capacity of dealers and professionals to hold bonds on their books at a profit depends on a worthwhile margin existing between short term financing costs and the return on the portfolio. Earlier this year that margin was about three full points, but it has been declining ever since and is now perilously close to disappearing.

Six months ago, for instance, are now at 7 1/2 per cent while prime five year bonds are yielding barely 8 per cent.

If interest rates in the United States continue to rise and if, as lately Eurodollar rates rise even faster, it is possible that the margin between short and long rates could be eliminated completely, his would be the point where dealers would come under particular pressure, especially since some of the more recent comers into the secondary market may already be nursing capital losses on their portfolios.

The unresolved question is just how big the professionals' bond books now are, and whether efforts by them to cut back might be accompanied by selling from some longer term investors in favour, perhaps, of the British gilt-edged market.

## Will miners' pay put a damper on coal?

Any battle between the National Coal Board, the Government and the miners over pay this winter will certainly be fought in the power stations. The big question for the miners and the NCB is how much of this vital market for coal will be swept away by an industrial dispute—or a peaceful settlement that brings a large increase in coal prices.

Coal at present dominates the power station scene purely on its price. The Central Electricity Generating Board can buy coal 10 to 15 per cent cheaper than oil, with the result that the oil's share of the power station market has halved in three years, while coal use has risen to a record 77 million tons a year.

But it is a position that is extremely finely balanced and the generating board has the ability to make drastic reductions in the use of coal at almost a moment's notice. Through the buying of oil, which is a large part of the capacity at the 28 oil-burning power stations throughout the country is idle or under used, waiting for the day when oil once more becomes competitive with coal.

The claim for £135 a week for coal face workers, if conceded, would immediately make most of the oil plant competitive once again. The price that the Central Electricity Generating Board pays for each ton of coal produced by coal would immediately rise to nearly 12p a ton, while the oil's share of the 28 oil-burning power stations by residual fuel oil.

These figures (and also those in the chart) do not include the cost of fuel transport to the power stations, which is high in the case of coal delivered by rail or road.

Coal does not have to match the price of oil before it completely loses its competitive edge. Experts reckon that its ease of handling compared with oil gives oil a natural 1p a ton advantage. For new power stations to be economic it needs a 3p a ton advantage, rising to 4p if small and medium sized industries are to make the change.

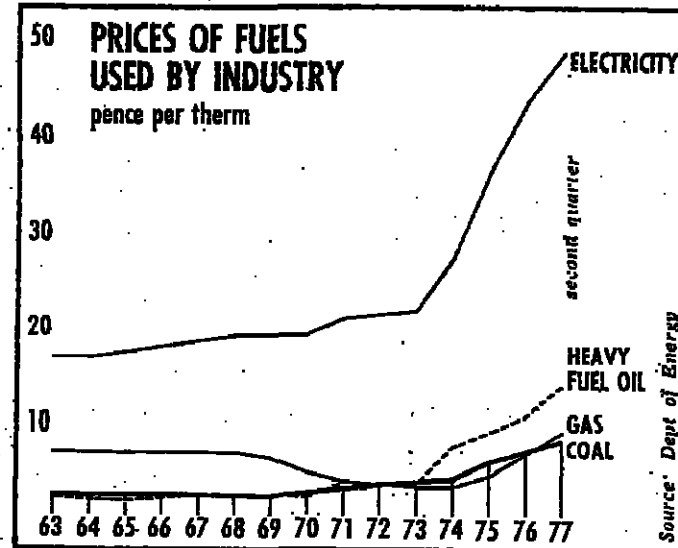
The net result of an increase in coal prices of this size would be the loss of up to 10 million tons of the NCB's power station market, a renaissance in the oil companies' sales to the CEGB and a minimum increase in electricity prices to the consumer of 15 per cent. Of the million ton drop, only six million tons would be lost to oil. The remaining four million would be accounted for by lower electricity sales as a consumer reaction to higher prices.

Settlement based on a 60 per cent wage increase would reduce the coal "burn" by five million tons (two million from lost sales and three million to oil), while it would decline by 1.5 million tons (500,000 tons from lost sales and 1 million tons to oil) from a 30 per cent increase. It is perhaps significant that economists in the fuel industries have used a 30 per cent increase and above in their calculations of the effects of a pay rise.

Previous large increases in coal prices have been cushioned by even larger rises in oil prices. But oil prices are no longer soaring at the meteoric rates of 1974 and 1975. There is a glut of oil throughout the world, which looks like producing only a very small increase in prices next year.

The decision will be taken by ministers from the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec) when they meet in Venezuela just before Christmas. All the indications are that they will seek for an increase of between 5 and 10 per cent and a further extension of the 1977 prices into next year cannot be ruled out.

During the past year oil's competitiveness with coal has slipped, and the world oil prices have been fairly stable. The decline in the value of sterling has added to import costs and industrial oils have had to contend with increases in tax.



The average cost of coal delivered to the power stations in 1976 was 8p a therm, against oil's 10.6p. In the first six months of this year the gulf widened, with the delivered cost of coal reaching 9.2p a therm, while sterling's difficulties and extra tax have pushed up oil costs to 13p a therm.

However, after suffering from sterling's problems oil prices can expect to reap some benefit from the pound's recovery. The CEGB is also getting some marginal relief from the world oil glut, which

extra production, of investment in existing low-cost mines and in new pits, as outlined in the Plan for Coal.

Under the original Plan for Coal it was expected that new mines would produce 20 million tons a year by 1985. The NCB has revised this target to 10m tons, partly because of the difficulties of getting planning permission for new workings.

Nevertheless, it is still confident that it can meet its target of increasing national output to 135m tons a year by the mid-1980s. The lost 10m capacity from new mines would be compensated for by slower exhaustion of existing capacity. But it will be the costs of production from the existing pits and not the new capacity that will set the marginal cost for the industry in the 1980s.

All the energy forecasts for the United Kingdom place great importance on a healthy coal industry. Once oil prices are affected by any shortages in supply during the 1980s it is expected that many industries will start to move back to coal in their day-to-day operations.

Only 25 years ago large heaps of coal outside grimy boiler-houses were a feature of the industrial landscape. Most factories depended on coal to power their operations much as they had done since the start of the Industrial Revolution.

In the 1950s cheap oil from the Middle East flooded on to the market and the much cherished decline of the British coal industry began. Output dropped from 220 million tons a year in 1952 to 120 million tons last year, as companies made a rapid conversion to a fuel that was cheaper, cleaner and easier to handle.

Only the captive power stations and steel markets kept coal from virtual extinction. Two disastrous strikes in 1972 and 1974 ensured the oil kept its customers, even though the six-fold increase in oil prices since 1973-1974 meant that conversion to coal could have provided cheaper energy costs in many cases.

Three years of peace in the pits has slowly helped to rebuild the business community's confidence in coal. Many energy managers have been carefully exploring the possibilities of converting from oil to coal as part of a longer term energy strategy.

Few had actually made a decision, but according to one of the Government's fuel advisers there was a willingness to consider coal that had been absent several years before. However, this attitude has been reinforced by the fact that coal's credibility as a reliable fuel is once again in question.

The rejection of the productivity deal and its likely consequences is going to force companies to think very hard about moving away from oil before it is absolutely necessary.

By this time the NCB should also be reaping the results, and

has produced distress cargoes of very cheap fuel oil on European markets.

During the work-to-rule by power station men all fuel price considerations are merely hypothetical since the CEGB has abandoned its merit order system and is using any price of serviceable generating equipment, including oil-burning units. The CEGB's merit system ensures that those stations capable of producing the cheapest electricity are used to produce the bulk of the country's power needs.

It has certainly not escaped the notice of the miners that while power stations have been burning record amounts of coal, the NCB has been able to meet the CEGB's needs even with low productivity. Increasing output per man would reduce the board's unit costs of production, but unless it reduced the overall price of coal, much of the additional production would go directly into stock.

The NCB has high hopes of increasing its sales to power stations, but this would require the generating board to bring into operation old power stations that are uneconomic at present coal prices. For new and efficient coal-burning stations the CEGB will have to wait until the second stage of the Drax station in Yorkshire is built in the early 1980s.

By this time the NCB should also be reaping the results, and

At last, some figures on the cost of VAT. Professor Cedric Sandford, director of Bath University's Centre of Fiscal Studies, has received a £12,200 grant from the Social Science Research Council to question more than 300 businessmen in the South-west about the time and money it costs to comply with VAT regulations.

## Economic notebook

### Hobson's choice for Mr Healey

Just how big an impact will the upward "Roar" of the pound have on our trade with the rest of the world—and should we worry about it?

To answer that question, and to clear our minds of the contradictory impressions which come from the statements which the Chancellor makes from time to time about price and non-price competitiveness, it is worth looking at just what has been happening to our exports over the past year under the impulse of the very sharp devaluation of 1976.

North Sea Oil, of course, has been the most important element in our remarkable balance of payments improvement over the past year, but it is not the only one. There has also been a dramatic recovery in our exports of other goods, including manufactures which have performed so badly for so long.

In the second quarter of 1977 the volume of exports rose by 4 per cent over the first quarter level and in the third quarter it rose by a further 2 1/2 per cent.

This is the evidence from the real world to confirm what theory tells us—that, although all the "non-price" elements in competitiveness such as delivery dates, quality and so on do matter, price matters as well and it matters very much.

The extent to which overseas sales are affected by price changes depends on a large extent, of course, on the particular commodity being studied; but most estimates come out with an average elasticity for exports of about 1 1/2, with the impact on semi-finished manufactures being much greater than on finished manufactures.

This is clearly understandable, since semi-manufactures will tend to be those products bought in bulk with a fairly uniform specification. It is in the fitting together of the pieces that qualities such as design become more important.

Changes in relative prices are thus crucially important in determining the way in which export volumes move. The only question at issue, then, is the extent to which changes in the parity of the pound, or any other currency, are reflected in changes of relative prices.

In other words, does a change in the value of sterling become absorbed through changes in the price quoted by manufacturers or is it reflected entirely in a change of the volume sold?

### Higher profits margins

The answer, in the short term at least, is a little bit of both, with a clear tendency after three years for the whole effect of the parity change to be reflected in a change in the sterling price quoted by British exporters.

This is understandable. If the pound is devalued, exporters will tend to raise their prices to the prevailing world level, because by doing so they can get higher profit margins, something which is more difficult to do at home because of price control; and, if they are selling overseas and there is a revaluation, they will either cut back on their profit margins by absorbing the costs of the higher pound or they will be driven out of overseas markets.

Thus we would expect to see an immediate downturn in the volume of exports (the contraction of British industry

has revised its prediction of export growth down from 6 per cent to 5 per cent for the period from the second half of 1977 to the second half of 1978, which seems a reasonable revision, though its estimate of 8 per cent for world trade growth might be optimistic, leading into a protracted but slower decline as companies give up because it is no longer profitable.

In the short run the decrease in volume will have the more significant impact on demand, coupled with the slightly higher import penetration which will result, but over a longer period the fall in profits is likely to be more important through its effect on industrial investment. It may just be coincidence that there were serious trade negotiations for Ford to build a new plant in Wales had been completed, but the rise in sterling is bound to have an effect on the many other businesses thinking of doing something similar.

### Exchange controls

So, if we accept that relaxing exchange controls on movements of money out of the country was the alternative to allowing sterling to rise (it was not necessarily the only one), the logic of the Chancellor's actions is hard to follow. He has prevented money flowing out to finance investment overseas at the price of making investment here less attractive for both British and overseas companies.

The contractionary effect on demand with no some extent mitigated by the fact that inflation will be lower and this will, if it does not cause an equal reduction in nominal wages, lead to higher disposable incomes for consumers. However, even on the optimistic assessments of the extent to which lower import prices feed through into the general price level, the effect over the next 12 months is obviously bound to be far less than the "one for one" under which a 1 per cent revaluation would reduce retail prices by 1 per cent.

Even if we assume a far more generous effect than the Treasury has ever considered, it is hard to see how a reduction in prices could be much more than a third of the size of the revaluation, which would mean that if sterling appreciates 5 per cent from the average level during the summer we would expect inflation to be about 1 to 2 per cent lower than it otherwise would have been.

This is obviously a worthwhile reduction, but the net effect, as the International Monetary Fund pointed out at the meeting in October, cannot be anything other than a contraction in domestic demand.

Where does all this leave the policy of the Government, which says that reducing unemployment is its top priority? Of the components of demand, exports have been dealt a blow and investment has been made less attractive by this week's action.

That leaves only one course left. The Government has often said that it rejects the idea of a consumption-led boom as a way of using North Sea oil. In practice, it is faced now with the choice between having a consumption-led recovery or no recovery at all.

David Blake

## Business Diary: Thompson's listening post • Chop logic

ish industry and Mid-companies in particular can have a sturdy ally on staff of Peter Jay, our senior in America. Thompson, 54, the present West's regional director of department of industry, is early in the new year home science and technology counsellor in Washington.

physicist by training, pson has spent the past six years in the D of T's top first in the East Midlands and recently in the West mid.

might he told me: "The as originally created some ago to feed scientific in-tion from the American-ities and fundamental ch institutions to our own nic bodies. More recently ef has been expanded e it an industrial bias. I to concentrate even more industrial side."

like GKN, Rolls-Royce, us to make good use and add: "I am going in touch with the major cm corporations such as General Motors, and ighouse. You could say shall be selling Great Limited and British in-ning post for British in- at the same time."

is more, Thompson is ing drafted to Washington, to foster the present est, former mining eng-Vin Smith, was leaving to the OECD in Paris and the job.

"In that way, I shall be going somewhere I want to go and not—as happens so often in the way of government changes—somewhere I didn't want to go", he said.

Mark Weinberg, the managing director of the Hambro Life insurance company, yesterday handed over a cheque for £3,000 to sponsor a sport that you would think insurance companies would steer well clear of—karate.

The cheque was accepted by Arthur Rees, honorary president of karate's coordinating body, the Martial Arts Commission. Together with a Sports Council grant, it will help fund a visit to Tokyo by the British karate team next month.

If karate seems a rather risky activity as far as injuries go, it is a very good risk in terms of competitions won. Britain is no longer up to winning world cups in her own national sport—soccer—but happens to be present world karate champion and the only country to beat the Japanese twice.

Our team will be defending this title against them on the forthcoming trip.

Rees, former chief constable of Staffordshire, is chairman of the Queen's Jubilee Appeal (Sport) and his commission licenses and insures practitioners of karate. We trust that claims are settled amicably.

As if it isn't hard enough to fly anywhere these days there could now be troubles at



"That's the fifth successive paragraph you've begun with 'Unfortunately', sir."

an important business destination—Abu Dhabi.

Department of Trade officials were busy last night trying to warn as many business travellers as possible against arriving in Abu Dhabi without having first booked a hotel, or without checking a reservation already made.

The Abu Dhabi government has reserved most if not all the hotel space of international standard between Saturday and Christmas night. This period takes in three important local events, a UNESCO conference, the national day and the Moslem new year, D of T officials explained.

"Meat is no longer a food, but one of the commodities which the powers that be in Brussels play with and use to retain the farmers' vote in Europe, to subsidize exports of bacon to this country from Europe, making pig-keeping here unprofitable, and to prohibit the import of quality beef from the Argen-

vene the professional code. Or at least when publishers Lund Humphries brought out books on Gothic, Modern, and York: Rosenberg Marland the RIBA made no complaint.

The latest title to result from this sort of arrangement is *Adventure in Architecture: A Profile of the Owen Luder Partnership*—an attractive and informative book about one of Britain's more dynamic and, yes, genuinely adventurous firms of architects.

The author, Kate Wharton (a former editor of *The Architect*) manages to look rather deeper into her subject than just the buildings. She probes what makes an architect's office tick; tales of commissions that come in the nick of time to save the practice, midnight oil liberally burned, and "the vital telephone call that recharged the adrenalin."

Commissioned titles may lack the waspishness of the architectural journals, but they may make for wider public discussion. Luder (quoted by Wharton) asserts: "It is healthier to have narrative and architecture criticized and subjected to argument rather than ignored."

At last, some figures on the cost of VAT. Professor Cedric Sandford, director of Bath University's Centre of Fiscal Studies, has received a £12,200 grant from the Social Science Research Council to question more than 300 businessmen in the South-west about the time and money it costs to comply with VAT regulations.

## Bryant Holdings

HOMES : PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT : BUILDING : CIVIL ENGINEERING

- ★ Profit before taxation £2.68m. compared with £2.39m. last year.
- ★ Gross final dividend 2.1p per share (1.9p last year)—maximum permissible.
- ★ Main trading activities all profitable. Cash position very satisfactory.
- ★ Market value of large land bank well in excess of balance sheet figure.
- ★ Reserves increased by development surplus of £1.2m. additional to trading profit.
- ★ Satisfactory results anticipated for current year.

### PRINCIPAL RESULTS

Year ended May 31	1977	1976
	£	£
TURNOVER	65,000,000	60,000,000
Profit before taxation	2,681,516	2,390,314
Taxation	1,813,827	1,439,182
Profit after taxation	1,047,689	951,122
Ordinary Dividend	452,002	404,880
Earnings per share	4.8p	4.8p

Copies of the Report and Accounts may be obtained from the Secretary, Cranmore House, Cranmore Boulevard, Shirley, Solihull, West Midlands B39 4SD.



FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

Stock markets

A second selling wave despite record reserves

There was little relief for equities and gilts as they faced a second wave of selling after the industrial discount after the miners' vote.

After an initial mark-down had found buyers "off" jobs, there was then a further wave of selling which was more widespread than on Tuesday and took in the full range of second-hand securities.

Record reserves figures, though widely forecast, did bring a firmer look to most.

What should institutions do with their engineering stocks? Stockbroker Hoare Gowers is gloomy and Phillips & Drew is cautious. By contrast, Spencer Thornton is more cheerful. This broker expects the market to take 60 to 100 points in the next few months to explain why. The rising pound is not a boon, but the point will be made that many engineering groups sell services with a lot of technical know-how. These should be able to charge what the international market will bear.

of the industrial pitches in late trading, but did little to relieve the general gloom.

In this frame of mind many dealers decided to leave for home early to escape the worst effects of the power cuts which were also causing a falling market in the property group.

Papers featured Reed which slumped another 18p to 146p.

The FT Index, 11 points down at 2 pm, closed 6.1 off at 486.0, the eighth consecutive day it has lost ground.

Government stocks discounted the reserves and long dates, after heavy selling at the start, did not make up much ground and closed one and three-quarter points lower throughout the list.

Dealers said it was "loose" money at home rather than overseas investors which had been selling. "Shorts" finished half a point off.

"Blue chip" equities were again lowered by double-figure amounts, in particular the major exporters.

Foremost among this latter group were Metal Box, off 18p to 312p, ICI, which was again hit by heavy selling and slumped 12p to 375p, Fisons, off 15p to 380p and Glaxo where the fall was 10p to 603p. Fiat against the trend was a penny better at 119p.

Renewed speculative interest on takeover talk helped Sidlaw to gain 7p to 50p. Lack of fresh news had Spidee up off 23p to 77p, while Peachey slipped 4p to 77p, after L. Fairclough, down 2p to 65p, had denied any interest or intention of buying an interest in the property group.

In buildings, Marchwell reared further to 258p, while heavily, with Empire losing 7p to 180p, Gratian the same amount to 144p and Freemans 6p off to 306p.

In 30 buildings, Marchwell reared further to 258p, while heavily, with Empire losing 7p to 180p, Gratian the same amount to 144p and Freemans 6p off to 306p.

Latest results

Company	Sales	Profits	Div	Pay	Year's
Int	£m	£m	pence	date	total
Aquascutum (I)	8.8(7.3)	0.6(0.36)	0.52(—)	19/12	(1.3)
Bank of Ireland (I)	20.4(12.5)	33.0(17.6)	5.0(3.0)	19/12	(15.0)
Berkeley Homes (I)	1.5(1.2)	1.8(1.28)	1.00(1.00)	5/1	(2.5)
BST Computers (I)	2.9(2.7)	17.1(16.38)	2.5(2.5)	1/12	(2.6)
Brit Northrop (I)	2.1(1.7)	0.37(0.15)	20.75(9.43)	—	(—)
Can & For Inv (I)	2.4(2.23)	2.06(1.95)	1.25(1.0)	15/12	(2.6)
Central Mount (I)	25.2(18.8)	13.2(12.1)	1.31(1.3)	—	(—)
CNA Inv (I)	28.5(28.1)	0.81(0.84)	10.4(10.8)	5.0(5.0)	(—)
Hambros Inv (I)	—	2.15(2.06)	1.5(1.4)	17/12	(3.2)
More O'Ferrall (I)	2.6(1.8)	0.40(0.05)	1.0(0.75)	30/12	(2.0)
Pease & Brown (I)	2.1(1.5)	0.24(0.14)	3.61(2.12)	6/1	(1.3)
Polymer (I)	5.8(4.4)	0.63(0.55)	3.79(3.27)	5/1	(2.4)
Safeway (I)	5.8(5.9)	0.56(0.46)	1.12(0.83)	16/12	3.0
Tricounty (I)	—	11.0(8.16)	4.84(4.33)	15/12	4.84(4.33)
Wood Hall Trust (I)	460.0(288.9)	4.5(6)	—	—	—

Doland chairman hits back at Jessel and urges bid acceptance

By Alison Mitchell

Mr Alfred Davis, chairman of Doland, has fired a broadside at the arguments of major shareholder and fellow director Mr Oliver Jessel, who has rejected the 25p per share cash offer from Maurice James Industries.

In a letter to holders he describes the offer as generous. He also reports that the group has subsequently received no approaches from any party, including Mr Jessel, suggesting a higher offer. This is surprising, as Mr Jessel is justified in asserting that James' offer is too low, he says.

In addition to its existing holding, acceptances have now boosted James' stake to almost 40 per cent of the Doland equity.

Mr Jessel holds his 27 per cent share through three companies—Capital Trust, High Income Trust and Clairance—in which he is a director. He rejects the bid on the grounds of both timing and price. Doland is now in the middle



Mr Oliver Jessel.

Tax saving the key to CMT's spurt

By Richard Allen

The considerable improvement forecast by Central Manufacturing & Trading Group at the interim stage turns out to be rather less than 13 per cent pre-tax for the full year.

For the 12 months to July 31 pre-tax profits have climbed from £3.5m to £3.94m on sales of £17.6m higher at £56.3m. But introduction of the ED19 proposals on deferred taxation slashed the tax total from £1m to less than £316,000. The result is that net earnings per share jumped from 12.5p to 19.2p.

Meanwhile a final dividend of 2.1p gross takes the total payment up by the maximum to 4.02p gross as predicted at the interim stage.

The improvement on the previous record of £3.7m pre-tax recorded last 1974, owes most to continuing growth in the crucial industrial services division. Here operating profits climbed by a third to £2.4m on sales 34 per cent up to £20.5m.

CMT reports that this division increased market share particularly in the second half, and that with order books at record levels and adequate stocks the new year has started well for all companies within the section.

Despite the severe conditions in the steel trade generally the steel stockholding division managed to increase its contribution 16 per cent to over £2m before tax, 18 per cent higher at £16.6m.

Light engineering managed only an 8 per cent increase to profits of £376,000 on a turnover increase of more than 20 per cent to £4.2m, but the group says that demand has improved.

The main disappointment has been metal processing where profits slumped from £613,000 to £148,000. CMT says that the highest earnings for any quarter and nine-month period in its 127-year history.

Mr James D. Robinson, chairman, said: "These excellent results reflect continued fine performances by virtually all

Carborundum is not backing Eaton bid

The board of Carborundum has unanimously determined not to support the proposal made by Eaton Corp to acquire for cash any and all Carborundum's outstanding shares of common stock at \$47 each.

Mr William H. Wendel, president and chief executive of Carborundum, said the decision reflected a judgment that the consideration proposed for the acquisition was inadequate and that the proposed combination would not be in the best interests of Carborundum and its stockholders. The board was satisfied in its deliberations by Morgan Stanley, its financial advisor.

Subsequently, Eaton has indicated a willingness to negotiate on a price of more than \$47. No such negotiations are now in progress. Mr Wendel noted that the work in no position to consider whether or not Carborundum might take, although Eaton had previously indicated that it intended to proceed with or without the approval of Carborundum's board.

Honda Motor 36 pc up

Honda Motor, which has moved from being Japan's largest maker of motor cycles into one of its largest makers of cars made net profits of 19.02 billion yen against 13.85 billion yen in the six months to August 31. Sales soared 20 per cent to 519.63 billion yen.

Overseas sales on a consolidated basis amounted to 68.7 per cent of the total, or 357 billion yen. A year earlier they were 65 per cent of sales.

Honda sold 1.28m motor cycles in the half year up from 1.14m the year before, and 347,000 cars, up from 266,000 units. About 63 per cent of motor cycle sales and 66 per cent of car sales were overseas.

American Express

American Express reports that its highest earnings for any quarter and nine-month period in its 127-year history.

Mr James D. Robinson, chairman, said: "These excellent results reflect continued fine performances by virtually all

Loss-making offshoot axed by Wood Hall Tr

By Our Financial Staff

A loss of £22.9m from the discontinued operations in Australia has spoilt the pre-tax profits of Wood Hall Trust. In the year to June 30 last, they slipped by just over a quarter to £4m from £5.6m. Turnover increased from £289m to £460m.

The losses from the major 732 per cent owned, Australian subsidiary, Wood Hall Trust (Australia) Pty Ltd, has stopped trading stems from two operations, gas and oil pipeline which accounted for a £1.4m deficit and property development, where the loss totalled £200,000. The gas pipeline, which was turned in a capital profit of £2.2m. Aggregating the trading loss and capital profit the final result to the company is a loss of £56,000.

A loss of the bid scheme may be obtained from the Commission of the European Communities (CEC) under the terms of the 1977-78 budget. The CEC has agreed to fund the bid scheme for the year 1977-78. The bid scheme is a new initiative to help the development of the gas and oil pipeline in the South East of England. The bid scheme is a new initiative to help the development of the gas and oil pipeline in the South East of England. The bid scheme is a new initiative to help the development of the gas and oil pipeline in the South East of England.

CSR obtains only 37 pc of AAR

By Desmond Quigley

Colonial Sugar Refining (CSR) announced that its £45.2m bid for Australian Associated Resources (AAR) was going unconditional after it had gained acceptances for 37 per cent of the issued capital.

CSR released a letter to AAR shareholders saying that AAR's advisers, Hill Samuel Australia, advised shareholders to accept the bid and that the chairman of AAR, Mr A. N. Avery, intended to accept in respect of his own holding.

When the bid was first made, AAR had rejected the offer as had Conzinc Riozinto of Australia (CRA), in which Riozinto Zinc has a 72.2 per cent interest, which holds a 12.6 per cent stake in AAR.

CSR's decision to make the offer unconditional before gaining at least 50 per cent of the shares and to accept AAR's shareholders that it may seek a delisting of the shares, has been interpreted as a move to try and speed up acceptances. It is not yet known whether CRA will now accept the bid. CSR, a wholly Australian company, launched its bid for AAR at the time CRA was drawing considerable criticism in Australia because of some of its moves in the coal industry and the degree of foreign ownership. CSR used the opportunity to explain its bid for AAR in chauvinistic terms.

Aquascutum is looking for a 20 per cent upswing

From strength to strength goes Aquascutum and Associated Companies, the outfitters, which will pay interim dividends of 2.1p and 2.2p on sales of 20.7 per cent up to £38.4m in the half-year to July 31, pre-tax profits jumped by 86.2 per cent to £678,000. Trading in London and in the group's established overseas markets has meant a good half-year. This now includes some earnings that used to come into the second half, the board reports. An increase of 4 per cent less than 20 per cent is expected for the year. Pre-tax profits for the year to January 31 were a record £1.71m on sales of £18.97m. An interim dividend of 0.82p gross is being paid.

For 1976-77, a single payment of 2.1p was paid.

Barclays Int £11m deal "down under"

Barclays Bank International has bought Citicorp's 30 per cent stake in FNCB-Watsons Corporation, an Australian company, for \$A18.9m (about £11.7m). Watsons, a Sydney-based retailer, holds the other half of FNCB-Watsons, a consumer finance company, which will be renamed Barclays Credit Corp. A joint statement by the three companies said the deal followed an increasing awareness of a potential conflict of interest between FNCB-Watsons and Financier IAC (Holdings), which was recently taken over by Citicorp.

Mistakes in accounts at Johnson-Stephens

Previous errors in the audited accounts of two of the subsidiaries of engineers Gordon Johnson-Stephens Holdings made a nasty dent in profits for the 13 months to February 29, 1976.

The total deficit of £1.1m pre-tax includes identifiable items of not less than £250,000 in relation to prior years, £106,000 in respect of losses and provisions in the French subsidiaries, £149,000 for stocks written down as obsolete and £52,000 for redundancy costs.

In the year to March 31 last, the group made a pre-tax profit of £633,000 against £248,000 for the previous 13 months.

ALCAN BOOTH INDUSTRIES

Agreement has been reached between Alcan Booth Industries and Alcan Booth to acquire the business and assets of Gardner Alumina from Carlton. It is estimated that the consideration which will be paid in cash, will be about £15m and will be on the basis of net asset value as certified by the company's auditors.

ISSUES IN OCTOBER

Now listed in October raised £169.3m gross against £205.9m in September. Net issues were £80.9m against £91.5m.

INGALL INDUSTRIES

The chairman says first quarter continues that most companies are operating well and the directors are aiming to achieve a resumption of former growth.

HIGGS & HILL

A French subsidiary has sold third phase of their Nice Carros development near Nice. Purchasers paid over 5m francs (£575,000).

MENNELL GROUP

Turnover for half-year to June 30, £6.5m (£7.7m). Profits, before depreciation and interest, down from £298,000 to £307,000. No interim payment (1.25p net last year). Second-half results expected to show some improvement over first.

Confident outlook at Bank of Ireland

Results of Bank of Ireland for the six months to September 30 show a rise in pre-tax profits from £12.5m to £20.4m. Current interest rates indicate a fall in historic profits for the half year to March 31, 1978, but in the absence of unforeseen circumstances the directors are confident that the results for the year will be up. Those for the year now in progress should be a lot better.

Fairclough denies bid for Peachey

Hopes of a fresh Fairclough Construction takeover bid for Peachey Property Corporation, Britain's biggest residential property group, formerly headed by Sir Eric Miller, were dashed yesterday.

Speculation had suggested that a bid could be on the way from the building and engineering group, but in a statement Fairclough denied that "it has any interest or intention to acquire any shares" in Peachey.

The shares in Peachey, sold under the chairmanship of Lord Mals, fell by 4p to 77p.

On October 6, Allied London Properties made an £11.75m cash bid for Peachey, which was rejected by the board.

On October 20, Peachey's board reported that, taking into account recent valuations, the adjusted net assets were equivalent to 131p an ordinary share. Allied dropped its offer last week.

Kleinwort Benson buys shipbroker

Merchant banker Kleinwort Benson has bought for a nominal sum of £100,000 a 50 per cent stake in the Baltic Exchange Mullion is engaged in the sale and purchase, contracting of tonnage, construction and tanker and dry cargo chartering, a business until recently carried on by Mullion Shipping.

Mr Martin Jacobson, a vice-chairman of Kleinwort Benson, said the acquisition was a "very well received" by clients.

The board sees a continuing improvement for the rest of the year, which should result in a "substantial" rise in 1977's pre-tax profits.

Best half-year ever at More O'Ferrall

In the first half of this year pre-tax profits of More O'Ferrall soared from £55,000 to £407,000 on turnover up from £1.81m to £2.26m. This is a

LEGAL NOTICES

In the High Court of Justice, Chancery Division, at the Royal Courts of Justice, London, W.C.2, on the 2nd day of October 1977, the following orders were made:

1. In the matter of the estate of the late Mr. John Smith, deceased. The executor, Mr. John Smith, is ordered to pay to the creditors of the estate, the sum of £10,000, within 14 days of the date of this order.

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## More ground lost



**Weatherall  
Green & Smith**

Chartered Surveyors · Estate Agents  
London Leeds Paris Nice Frankfurt

[illegible]







# Scene Scene

-Managerial-Administrative-Secretarial-Personal Assistants-

BRITISH MANUFACTURE  
AND RESEARCH COMPANY LIMITED  
A member of the Oerlikon-Bührle Group  
of Zurich, Switzerland, wish to appoint a

## SECRETARY

This is an extremely interesting appointment for a competent Secretary who would be responsible to the Managing Director based at Grantham. This position would be best suited to someone who has had previous secretarial experience at Senior level, and applicants should, therefore, have good shorthand and typing speeds but presentation and accuracy is more important. A Secretarial qualification is essential together with fluency and a good working knowledge of the German language. An excellent salary will be offered together with a full range of fringe benefits that include pension and life assurance scheme, 29 days holiday, sports and social facilities. Applicants, male or female, should write in strict confidence for an application form to:

Mr. S. Murphy, Recruitment Officer,  
British Manufacture & Research Co. Ltd.,  
Springfield Road, Grantham, Lincs.



## PROOF READER

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